Wednesday January 14 1998

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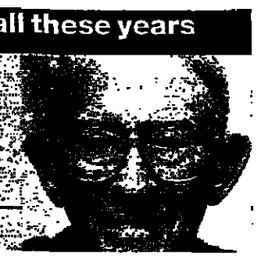
The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

Golden oldies: still working after all these years

Retirement? No thanks



G2 with European weather

National mascot

Remaking of Robbie Williams



G2 Page 4

Environment

Cities that put design before people

Society, G2 pages 12-13

Blair invites major overseas investment into Millennium Experience

Japan props up the Dome

Ewen MacAskill in Tokyo and Luke Harding

TONY Blair last night moved to rescue the troubled Millennium Dome by inviting Japanese corporations to invest in the project.

The dome, which was originally billed as a showcase for British achievement and ingenuity, may now be substantially financed by firms such as Toyota, Sony, Nissan and Toshiba.

Private investors are likely to be given exhibition stands inside the dome, with a promise that their logo will be prominently displayed.

The Government has been using National Lottery funds to set up the £758 million dome, but British companies have been reluctant to contribute, and the project has been bogged down by internal feuding over its contents.

A spokesman for the Prime Minister, on his way home to Britain after a five-day tour of Japan, revealed that investment had been discussed with the Japanese. Big corporations have been offered use of the dome to show off hi-tech innovations in return for putting sums of up to £12 million on the table.

Mr Blair and an accompanying business delegation discussed the dome with several Tokyo companies during the trip. Japanese representatives are due in Britain in the next few weeks to examine the project in more detail.

The president of the Confederation of British Industry, Sir Colin Marshall, who accompanied the Prime Minister, yesterday gave an upbeat assessment of Japanese intentions. He said: "The interest I have heard expressed so far is the opportunity to be able to promote their companies and the hi-tech aspects of their business to an extremely large audience, not only in the millennium year but in the run-up to the millennium."

But Mr Blair's initiative drew a withering response from prisoner of war veterans' groups. Sid Tavender, vice-chairman of the Japanese Labour Camp Survivors Association, said: "I am not happy about this. Private Japanese companies including Toyota, Mitsubishi and Datsun used PoWs as slave labour during the second world war."

The New Millennium Experience, which is running the dome project, needs at least £150 million from the private sector. Companies can invest up to £12 million each but only a few British firms, including British Airways and BT, have openly pledged support.

A spokesman for the New Millennium Experience last night claimedthat £120 million had been privately pledged by British firms. But he admitted that the money had not been handed over and contracts had yet to be negotiated.

The prospect of Japanese investment opens the Government up to a charge of diluting the Britishness of the project. Companies in countries other than Japan, particularly the United States, will also be invited to participate. Some people, however, will welcome a shift away from *the initial celebratory jingoism* to a project with a more international flavour.

Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, last night described the dome as "a great British enterprise", but sought to stress the global nature of firms like Toyota. "They are companies which are part of the British way of life," he said.

Francis Maude, the shadow heritage secretary, said the project was now open to "ridicule". "One week Mr Mandelson is in Disneyland looking for ideas. The next week Tony Blair is in Tokyo looking for money. This raises questions *about how well this is being* run. This exhibition was meant to be the best of British. There is just a hint of desperation about all this."

The project has been dogged by trouble. Over the weekend the project's former creative designer Stephen Bayley accused Mr Mandelson of running the dome like a dictator and said it might turn out to be "crap". *With* under two years to complete the project, time is fast running out.

Sir Colin Marshall said there had been a marked change over what the dome should contain and there was now more emphasis on new technology. He said: "There was a very marked emphasis recently on the dome highlighting technology aspects, so Japanese companies that have a lot of investment in research and development, if they so wish, have the opportunity to show off ideas they have for the future."



Guy Snowden: described allegations of attempted bribery as outrageous

'There is always a bottom line, Richard. In what way can we help you?'

For one of these multi-millionaires the game is up. **Kamal Ahmed** on an uncharitable lottery squabble



Richard Branson: made note of conversation after 'ugly pause' PHOTOGRAPHS: MARTIN GODWIN

PAYING for the case, at least, will not be a problem. Two of the richest men in the world locked horns yesterday in what is set to be one of the most remarkable libel battles of the decade.

On one side of Court 13 of the High Court in London sat Richard Branson, multi-millionaire, businessman and sometime balloonist.

On the other sat Guy Snowden, multi-millionaire, businessman and one-time horse trainer. At stake is each man's integrity.

Mr Branson, aged 47, is suing Mr Snowden. Mr Snowden's company G-Tech and the company's public relations director, Robert Rendine, for claiming that allegations that Mr Snowden had tried to bribe Mr Branson were lies.

In turn Mr Snowden, aged 52, is suing Mr Branson for *making the bribery allegations* in the first place.

At the time, Mr Snowden and Mr Rendine described the allegations as "outrageous" and "completely untrue".

The case rests on the bitter battle to win the contract to run Britain's lottery in which both Mr Branson and Mr Snowden were involved.

The court was told that in December 1995 Mr Branson claimed on BBC1's Panorama that Mr Snowden had offered him a bribe to pull out of the bidding for the lottery — eventually won by Camelot, in which G-Tech has a 22.5 per cent stake.

"The gaming industry and *the lottery industry in particular* might suitably have a motto — take a chance," said George Carman QC, representing Mr Branson.

"Much of this case is about an occasion in 1993 when we shall submit that Mr Snowden took a fateful chance. We say that because he took that chance with Richard Branson, it was a gamble that did not pay off."

The jury of six men and six women were told that the occasion in question was a lunch at Mr Branson's house in London in September 1993.

Mr Branson, whose Virgin Group was heading a no-profit bid to run the lottery, *wanted to ask Mr Snowden if* he could help Mr Branson's consortium with computer and technical support.

The court was told that Mr Snowden said at the lunch in the conservatory of Mr Branson's Holland Park home that he was not able to help as G-Tech, which runs lotteries in 30 countries across the world, was already involved in the Camelot consortium.

John Jackson, then chief executive of the Body Shop who helped Mr Branson run the Healthcare Foundation, a charitable organisation, was also at the lunch. Mr Snowden then allegedly asked Mr Branson if he would be willing to pull out of *the bidding as it might affect* Camelot's chances of winning the contract.

Mr Carman said Mr Snowden was concerned that if Mr Branson persisted with his bid, the Government might decide that all companies should be run on a non-profitable basis.

He said the motivations of the two men for running the lottery, one for charity, one for his own profit, were separated by a "yawning gulf" and that Mr Branson described Mr Snowden as "odious".

"His [Mr Snowden's] eyes were firmly fixed on the profits that would be made for G-Tech," Mr Carman said. "The *national lottery in the UK* would have been the jewel in the crown, it was the largest lottery in the world."

The court was told that between 1995 and 1997 Camelot had made £147 million in profit, a slice of which would go to G-Tech.

Mr Carman then said that the following conversation took place:

turn to page 3, column 7

Advertisement



"I was all at sea till I found out about Ruskin College"

John Prescott

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Ruskin College is a charity which exists to provide education for adults.

Bath Rugby Club suspend suspected ear biter



Kevin Yates: denies biting off chunk of opponent's ear

Luke Harding and Robert Kitson

A SOLUTION to the mystery of who bit the ear of rugby player Simon Fenn appeared to move closer last night when Bath suspended one of its forwards, Kevin Yates.

Fenn, who plays for London Scottish, collapsed in agony on Saturday during a match with Bath after a large chunk of his left ear was bitten off in a scrum. He required 25 stitches.

Last night Bath appeared to have identified the suspected culprit as Yates, a 25-year-old England international prop. But he still has to be found guilty, pending an internal disciplinary hearing. He continued to protest his innocence.

London Scottish originally named all three members of the Bath front row to the Rugby Football Union after Bath seemed unwilling to pursue the matter. But in a statement Bath insisted neither Federico Mendez nor Victor Ubogu had been involved. It also stressed that its investigations are continuing.

Yates's future, nevertheless, appears bleak. He has already been forced to pull out of today's England squad get-together at Bisham Abbey. If found guilty he will have to wait a very long time before being able to add to the two caps he earned on England's tour of Argentina.

Until the ear-biting mystery is resolved, Yates will continue to be a member of the Bath squad.

But if video and pictorial evidence from London Scottish fails to unmask Yates definitively, the lawyers will start to circle attentively.

"We'll have a disciplinary hearing in the next few days. What happens to Kevin will depend on the outcome of that hearing," Bath chief executive Tony Swift said yesterday. "Kevin has said he is totally innocent and has said he will co-operate fully."

Fenn, an Australian playing his first match for the club, was hurt late in the first half of Saturday's Tetley's Bitter Cup tie. He may still require a skin graft to heal the wound, bigger than the one suffered by Evander Holyfield in his world heavyweight fight with Mike Tyson.

This sort of thing has happened before. Springbok prop Johan Le Roux, possessor of rugby's most infamous set of teeth, received a 19-month suspension for biting Sean Fitzpatrick's ear in the second test between South Africa and New Zealand in Wellington in 1994.

Yates maintains innocence, page 16

'Even the briefest glimpse at the pre-match rituals confirms that rugby players are more pumped up than ever — and not just with muscles and money. They increasingly resemble American footballers who head-butt team mates and scream blue murder before a ball has even been kicked.'

Paul Hayward, Sports Journalist of the Year, page 16

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Sketch

'ow was it fer you with urr Robin?



Simon Hoggart

WHAT I can't understand is this: since Cupid — or Alastair Campbell as we call him — has snaffled her man for her, why does Gaynor Regan look so miserable? I mean, I know she's been under a lot of pressure lately, but she is the winner.

Last summer Mr Campbell, the twinkle-eyed matchmaker, instructed the Foreign Secretary to choose between his wife and his mistress. (In common with all cult religions, New Labour puts great emphasis on arranging suitable marriages.)

Since Mr Campbell is a more senior votary in the cult, Mr Cook did as he was bidden. And now the lucky girl looks as if she had just eaten a wasp sandwich.

Of course, some people hate being photographed. But I've seen young women look cheerier on Blind Date, even when they explain why they would rather do the butterfly stroke across a river of rat-infested sewage than set eyes again on the bloke they chose last week.

("Gaynor, duck, 'ow was it *fer you with urr Robin?*"

"Cilla, I would rather do the butterfly stroke across a river of rat-infested sewage than ever set eyes on him again.")

The blushing bridegroom was answering questions in the Commons yesterday, a chance to explain his ethical foreign policy (as opposed to his slightly more confused domestic policy).

We gazed at him in wonder, the same question silently forming in all our minds: "How does he do it?"

How, that is, when inside he must be churning with rage and anguish, does he manage to speak so crisply and coolly? At the very time when the man who holds the job Mr Cook covets, Gordon Brown, is falling out with the Prime Minister on a scale unmatched by any Chancellor since Nigel Lawson, Mr Cook, far from being hailed as a sophisticated elder statesman, is seen on every front page promising not a moral policy on Algeria, but to marry a woman who looks as if she had just spotted a dead toad on her dressing table?

Mr Cook kept his cool even when the first Tory question came from Alan Clark, whose private life, though as colourful as Mr Cook's, is now entirely in the past.

The questions concerned *Saddam Hussein. There* are those who believe it is time to lift sanctions against Iraq, on the grounds that they cause terrible damage to children and yet bolster Saddam's position.

Then there are those, like Mr Cook, who believe they are working. But the antis were relentless. Tony Benn actually accused the sanctions' supporters of "war crimes". (Like Sinn Fein, Mr Benn generally manages to blame Britain for every atrocity, no matter who actually carried it out.)

Mr Cook stood his ground until relief came from Dale Campbell-Savours, who *pointed out gently that many* of the people who oppose sanctions today were the same as those who had argued for them in 1991, instead of military action. Mr Cook chuckled happily, and we knew he was home and safe.

Later, there was a terrible accident. Helen Brinton is one of the robotised Labour women who has been programmed to respond to *certain key sounds. When she* hears the word Europe, electrical currents surge through her synapses, she leaps up and says: "Does my honourable friend agree with me that the party opposite could *never* agree on a code of conduct towards Europe?"

But something had gone horribly wrong. The question was actually about Indonesia.

The Speaker inquired icily *whether it concerned Indonesia* or Europe. The minister, Derek Fatchett, tried to get both women off the hook. "A mixture of both, if you like, Madam Speaker."

"The minister is out of order, as the questioner was," Betty said coldly. The poor Ms Brinton looked as if a British-made electrical riot-control prod had just been jabbed into her rump.



A polluted cloud hangs over Canary Wharf in London's Docklands. Traffic fumes and other emissions are blamed for up to 24,000 premature deaths a year PHOTOGRAPH: CAWAN PAWSON

Alarm at killer traffic fumes

Paul Brown, Environment Correspondent

TRAFFIC fumes are killing up to 24,000 people prematurely each year and putting a similar number in hospital, according to a government report on the effects of air pollution, published yesterday.

The figures, far higher than expected, give powerful backing to government plans to reduce car use in cities, expected to be announced in a white paper in the spring.

The report emphasises that those most at risk are the elderly or those with heart or lung disease, whose deaths *are brought forward by days*, weeks or even years because of air pollution. Government health experts believe the true death toll may be much higher and have so far counted only the deaths caused by three of the most common pollutants. And they have yet to calculate how much air pollution shortens the lives of otherwise healthy people, but believe that it must do so.

Jon Ayres, chairman of the Health Department Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants, which drew up the report, said: "We have clearly underestimated the true overall effects of air pollution."

Government guidelines on air quality in urban areas are exceeded as often as once a week and local authorities have been given a target of 2005 to get levels down. They have been given powers to close roads or whole districts to traffic if necessary but so far no schemes have been brought forward for approval.

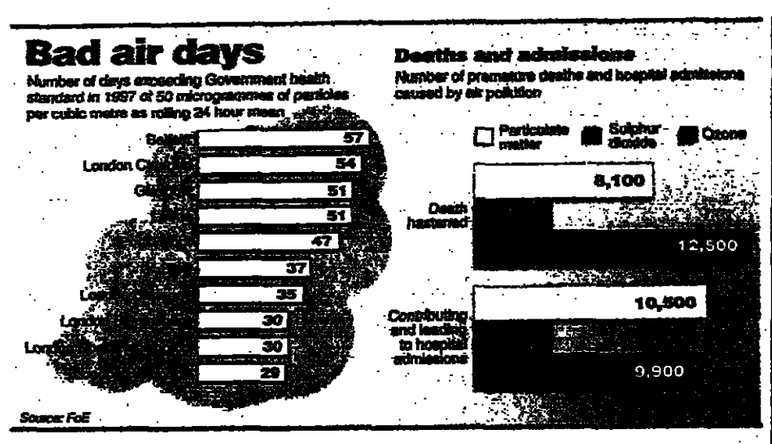
Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, said the report *made these measures more* urgent. "While there is much that we need to find out about the precise effects, it is clear that it [air pollution] is doing harm to people who are already frail and sick."

The main killers in cities are dust particles, mainly in diesel fuel, which bring forward an estimated 8,100 deaths and put another 10,500 in hospital. Sulphur dioxide adds another 3,500 premature deaths and a similar number of hospital admissions.

Over the whole country, summer ozone, which is often worst in the countryside and is mainly formed by sunlight reacting with a cocktail of pollutants from traffic, kills another 12,500 people a year and puts 9,900 in hospital. All three pollutants irritate the bronchial tubes and can damage lung tissue. Particulates are also believed to cause cancer.

The cost of all this to the NHS is among the questions to be addressed by research commissioned yesterday.

The Government says the main culprit is the private car, although in Belfast, the worst city for particulate matter, two coal-fired power stations are mainly to blame.



The National Asthma Campaign and Friends of the Earth called on the Government to support the Road Traffic Reduction Bill, a private members measure supported by 400 MPs who want a 10 per cent reduction in road traffic by 2010.

Melinda Betts, chief executive of the National Asthma Campaign, said: "This is another step towards confirming the worst fears that many of the UK's 3.4 million people with asthma have had for a long time. The Government *has got to deliver on air quality* standards. Hot air and empty words will not do."

The Environment Minister, Michael Meacher, accepted that the Government needed to reduce traffic in cities, and said he was sympathetic to the aims of the Road Traffic Reduction Bill.

"We are not expecting people to sell up their cars, but use them less," he said. "One eighth of all journeys are less than 1,000 yards. We want them to walk or use public transport."

Review

The laughs and tears of a clown

Lyn Gardner

The Red Zone
Purcell Room, London

THE apocalypse starts here and now with Anton Adassinsky's Derevo, a Butoh-inspired clown troupe of whey-faced nutters. They are as likely to make you want to slit your throat as laugh.

Trashing all the conventions of the circus, these shaven-headed, menacing figures with their saggy tights and taped crotches turn inept cartwheels and fail to juggle with toy axes to the accompaniment of an increasingly raucous and roaring sound track of canned laughter and applause.

That done with, things take an even more bizarre turn as we are delivered into a twilight landscape, peopled by mutant beings, in which birth and death co-exist in the same split second. There is a constant cacophony.

The 60 minutes is full of fleeting moments of great beauty; two figures play with a pendulum like children with a ball. The swing of the ball subsides. In a breadth, the universe contracts.

A suspended ice-filled balloon, which looks like a strange, upside down human, is viciously burst. Ice and water flood the stage. The performers slip and slide in the detritus. The world takes a tumble.

Yet for all its weird, aching, melancholic beauty, this is a world which quickly turns brutal. A figure runs round and round as if on a forced march. The crippled grapple with each other. There is the whiff of the concentration camp in the air.

The piece embraces the extreme, see-sawing wildly between complete anarchy and total control. At one minute the performers move with the precision of highly trained dancers or gymnasts; at the next, the whole cast appears to have been suddenly afflicted by some dreadful disease of the muscles which makes them twitch and thrash like puppets with uncontrolled spasms.

The shifting chaos of the big picture frequently gives way *to tiny telescoped moments* involving a delicately held mirror or haunting shadowplay.

What does it all mean? Who knows? Possibly even its creators would be hard-pressed to explain every image and intricacy.

Born out of the avant garde Russian rock band Avia and the changing consciousness of perestroika, Red Zone has the unmistakable feel of Russian dissidence. Its scary, cartoonish quality constantly suggests a world in which the tiny, clownish human figures are locked in an unending struggle with monolithic forces which threaten to crush them.

The clowns continue to clown amidst the chaos, repeatedly fooling themselves that they can seize control when in fact they are the whole point of the joke.

Image dissolves into image. There appears to be no intellectual thread, merely an assault on the sight and senses. On a screen, strange red shapes move like wobbly jelly. It is an oddly peaceful and *moving conclusion to an oddly* compulsive performance.

Teachers welcome new emphasis on three Rs

John Carvel, Education Editor

TEACHERS' leaders gave a warm welcome yesterday to a drastic slimming down of the compulsory curriculum in primary schools to give maximum priority to raising the competence of slow learners in reading, writing and arithmetic.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the NASUWT and a persistent critic of successive education ministers, called it the best news for primary teachers since the election. Chris Woodhead, chief inspector of schools, said he was delighted.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, announced that pupils under 11 would no longer be *required to stick to the* detailed national syllabus in history, geography, design and technology, art, music or physical education.

As the Guardian disclosed on Saturday, he wants teachers to focus their energies on delivering a core curriculum of English, maths, science and information technology. Headteachers will be expected to introduce a daily "numeracy hour" dedicated to concentrated arithmetic as well as the "literacy hour" announced last year.

The decision showed ministers' determination to let nothing stand in the way of delivering their targets for a huge leap in the proportion of 11-year-olds reaching the required standard in English and maths by 2002. Mr Blunkett said after the election *that the Government's* performance in education should be judged against that yardstick.

He has effectively abandoned the moratorium on curriculum change before 2000 which was promised by Conservative ministers and repeated by Estelle Morris, the school standards minister, last summer.

Although schools will still be obliged to offer a rounded *education in the so-called* minor subjects, they can drop the official study programmes provided by the curriculum authority without fear of sanctions from the Ofsted inspectorate.

Mr Blunkett has not gone as far as Mrs Thatcher, who unsuccessfully instructed her education ministers to limit the primary curriculum to the three-Rs. In addition to his four core subjects and a statutory duty to provide religious education, he wants schools to use the more flexible timetable to offer "tastes in other subjects, including modern languages, if they wish."

The changes — to be introduced in September — are a stopgap measure pending a complete revision of the curriculum in 2000. But Mr Blunkett *left little doubt yesterday* that the concentration on basic skills would become permanent.

"For too long, too many primary school teachers have been prevented from giving literacy and numeracy the attention they deserve because the national curriculum has lacked the very clear focus on the basics which is crucial in primary education.

"It is no surprise that so *many pupils leave primary school ill-equipped in the* three-Rs," he said.

It was understood that Nick Tate, chief executive of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, was uneasy about demotion of the minor subjects. Although he supported Mr Blunkett at a press conference yesterday, he emphasised that schools achieving their literacy and numeracy targets had no reason to narrow their curriculum. Dr Tate said he would consult on the Government's proposals and was keen to hear responses.

Twenty years getting back to basics

☐ **1968:** Shirley Williams, Labour's education secretary, stresses need for literacy and numeracy skills in schools.

☐ **1975:** Margaret Thatcher, soon after becoming Conservative leader, delivers speech on importance of educational standards. Calls for improved teaching of three Rs in schools.

☐ **1977:** James Callaghan delivers "back-to-basics" speech on education soon after becoming Prime Minister. Stresses need for schools to teach three Rs. Mr Callaghan says essential tools of education are "basic literacy and numeracy."

☐ **1984:** Tory education secretary Sir Keith Joseph calls for back-to-basics policy in classroom with emphasis on three Rs and more discipline in classroom.

☐ **1987:** Education secretary Kenneth Baker unveils plans for school timetable composed of core subjects such as science and technology and greater emphasis on three Rs.

☐ **1988:** Education secretary Kenneth Baker calls for more emphasis on literacy and numeracy for adults and children during conference on three Rs organised by CBI. Also calls for more traditional teaching in schools and colleges.

☐ **1993:** Prime Minister John Major calls for back-to-basics initiative in education and puts nursery education at heart of his back to basics in education campaign.

☐ **1993:** Labour leader John Smith calls for improved teaching of three Rs and for well-equipped schools and valued teachers.

☐ **1996:** John Major and education secretary Gillian Shephard express concerns over *falling standards of literacy* and call for improved teaching of three Rs. Mr Major announces new powers to help schools raise standards in three Rs.

Victim mistakenly buried

Martin Walnwright

A FAMILY'S anguished wait for the bodies of three generations killed in the Luxor massacre ended yesterday with forensic proof that a young British mother was mistakenly buried in Germany two months ago.

The remains of 24-year-old Karina Turner, who with her *mother* Joan and five-year-old daughter Shaunnah was machine-gunned by Islamic extremists, will be exhumed and returned to Yorkshire.

Comparisons of DNA and dental records finally persuaded sceptical police in Germany that Mrs Turner's body had been muddled with that of a German woman in the chaotic aftermath of the killing of 58 tourists on November 17 last year.

The British family's agony had already been compounded by a similar error over the body of 53-year-old Joan Turner, which was confused with a Swiss victim's and sent to Zurich.

The West Yorkshire coroner, Roger Whittaker, announced the breakthrough yesterday, expressing official regret that it had taken so long to sort the muddle out. He revealed that before Christmas, German police had refused to reopen their inquiries without an official approach through Interpol.

Karina's elder sister Debbie, a student at Salford university, said last night: "She's been found now and that's all that counts."

The Rev Dennis Handley, vicar of St Bartholomew's church in Ripponden, near Halifax, where grandmother, daughter and grand-daughter shared a stone terrace house, said the news was a great relief for the whole village.

The bodies mistakenly thought to be those of Joan, a social worker, and Karina, an air hostess, were identified by consular staff in Egypt and then by relatives and a family friend in London. Mr Whittaker said no blame should attach to either the system of visual identification or those who took part.

Brewery puts day horses back in harness in hope of beating London traffic jams

Stuart Millar

FOR 400 years, horses pulled brewery drays through the streets of south-west London. Then came the 1990s phenomena of traffic congestion and road rage, and a year ago Young's brewery decided it was too dangerous for the horses to remain on the road. But after a year of seeing their lorries snarled up in London traffic, Young's is to call its 18 horses back into service.

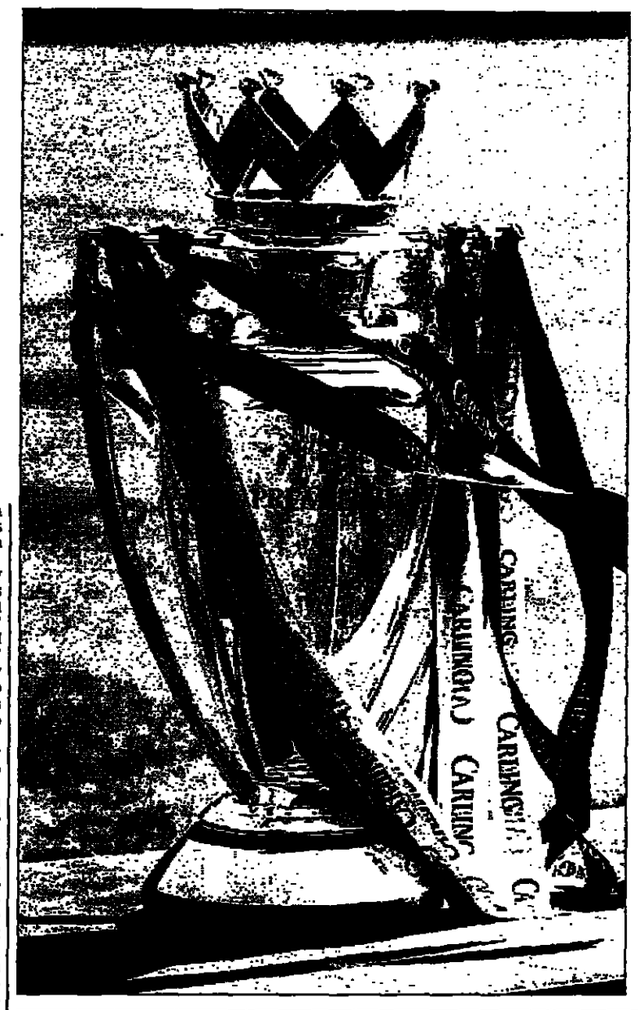
The 14 shires, two Suffolk punches and two French percherons will resume delivering beer to pubs near the company's brewery in Wandsworth, south-west London. Youngs hopes that later deliveries will avoid the congestion and abuse which caused it to withdraw the horses.



هكذا من الاصل

France plots clampdown on drinks sponsorship

European ban could end sport's £40m alcohol deals







Cheers . . . Alcohol sponsorship provides a solid, £40 million foundation for Britain's sporting institutions, from the FA Carling Premiership, to the Cambridge rowing team and the England cricket team

PHOTOGRAPHS: SEAN SMITH (top right) and CLIVE MASON (above)

John Duncan
Sports Correspondent

BRITISH sport could lose £40 million a year if a French proposal to ban alcohol sponsorship throughout Europe is adopted, a senior European Commission official has privately warned in a report to UK sports bodies seen by the Guardian.

According to the official, the French are pressing the commission to adopt a Europe-wide ban to bring other countries into line with their own law. Drinks companies are already prohibited from sponsoring sport in France under the *Loi Evin* and any French television company broadcasting an event which permits alcohol sponsorship can face fines and the imprisonment of its directors. That could become European law within five years.

Yesterday the French government admitted that it is pressing for a ban. "We are pushing for the toughest possible agreement in Europe," a spokeswoman for the health ministry said. "And we are aiming for it to be as close as possible to our own laws."

The private report, delivered to a closed meeting of sponsors and governing bodies, warned that alcohol could replace tobacco as the soft target of European legislators. "There is a great risk that the kind of blanket ban of alcohol advertising in France will spread across the whole community as it has done for tobacco," the report said.

Fears of a back-door European ban have grown since the commission's refusal to deal with Budweiser's claim against the football World Cup organisers in France. The American brewer has been denied pitchside advertising during the World Cup because of the *Loi Evin*, despite having paid Fifa, football's governing body, an estimated £20 million to be an official sponsor of the tournament. Budweiser has been forced to sell its stadium hoarding allocation to the Japanese watch firm Casio.

"That reflected the incredible pressure that some member states are putting on the institution," the commission official's report said. "It lays the ground for European harmonisation of the ban."

One official said yesterday that international sports teams playing in France had been subjected to "blackmail" by French television, and forced to remove sponsors' names from shirts. The law forced Newcastle United to cover their shirt sponsor's name for a match in Monaco this season.

Sweden, Greece and Italy are thought to back moves to outlaw alcohol sponsorship.

British sport, whose deals with the drinks industry, including agreements beyond the current year, are worth £110.5 million, would be hardest hit by the French proposals. "The market for sponsorship is much bigger and more sophisticated than in the rest of Europe," Nigel Currie, spokesman for the European Sponsorship Consultants Association (Esca), said yesterday. "It would be a disaster for British sport."

Esca is co-ordinating lobbying in Brussels to counter French pressure, and is worried that many governing bodies are not taking the threat seriously.

"Five years ago tobacco was in exactly the same position," said Helen Day, chairwoman of Esca's international affairs committee. "We have to learn the lessons of that and be positive."

Britain's sports sponsorship market has grown enormously in the past 10 years to £350 million annually. After tobacco, alcohol is the biggest player in the market, providing £40 million each year, according to industry statistics.

The biggest benefactor, the FA Carling Premiership, which has a four-year deal with the brewer worth £36 million, yesterday condemned the French moves. "The involvement of Carling and other brewers in the Premier League has brought overall benefit to the game," a spokesman said.

Leader comment, page 8

Sponsoring sport

Current alcohol sponsored deals in sport. Total: £110.5m

Football
Carling: Premiership £36m
Bell's: Scottish league £3.5m
Scottish and Newcastle: Newcastle United £4m
Ward's Brewery: Sheffield United £1.5m
Carlsberg: FA Vase, Euro 96, Fab Cup £5m
Carlsberg: Liverpool FC £6m

Cricket
Foster's: The Oval £2m

Rugby Union
Carlsberg-Tetley: National league and cup £10m
Guinness: London Irish £1m
Guinness: 1999 World Cup £10m
Heineken: European Cup £5m
Tennent's: Scottish league and cup £1m
Tetley: Leeds RFC £2.3m

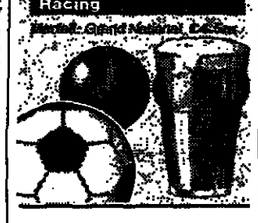
Tennis
Stella Artois: Queens Club event £10m

Basketball
Budweiser £1.5m

Yachting
Whitbread Round the World Race £7.5m

Rowing
Beefeater Gin: Boat Race £1.25m

Racing
Harvey's: Grand National £400k



Wake up to millennium bug threat, Blair urged

Experts warn of public services chaos as computers malfunction

David Gow and Simon Beavis

MILLIONS of people could suffer from the collapse of benefits payments systems, and health and education services could grind to a financial halt because of government failure to solve the "millennium bug" problem, an alliance of senior British, American and Canadian business executives and academics warned yesterday.

Tony Blair, President Bill Clinton and the Canadian prime minister, Jean Chrétien, were told by 87 corporate and academic leaders that time is running out and that funds set aside are grossly inadequate to deal with the threat that software systems controlling public services will misinterpret dates beyond December 31 next year.

Their apocalyptic warning came as Mr Blair prepared to relaunch next week Action 2000 — the official body set up last year to raise public awareness — as the Millennium Bug Commission. The new commission will come complete with helpline, Website and new logo — a black bug on a yellow background.

Amid political infighting, the body, chaired by Don Cruickshank, the outgoing director-general of Oftel, has spent weeks searching for a chief executive who is not now likely to be appointed until March at the earliest.

The government-funded body is due to supplement or take over the activities of Task Force 2000, the public-private organisation headed by consultant Robin Guenier. He last night launched a scathing attack on Labour's handling of the bug crisis — in particular the setting aside of a mere £370 million for central government alone to tackle a problem likely to cost Britain up to £70 billion.

In a statement issued under the aegis of the British-North American Committee, the corporate and academic leaders declared: "If the year 2000 finds governments inadequately prepared, the bug's impact will extend well beyond their own operations. Pension or income support payments and reimbursements for key services such as health and education may be disrupted.

"Breakdowns in revenue collection and debt management may trigger financial chaos, threatening institutional stability and household savings. Malfunctions in critical areas such as air traffic control and defence may put people's safety at risk. The consequences of failure to act effectively are frightening to contemplate."



The International Federation of Airline Pilots is planning emergency meetings over the next few days to discuss the prospect that some airlines will boycott airports across the world thought to be particularly vulnerable to the bug. "We've already had reports from pilots that some airlines will refuse to land at key airports unless they are satisfied sensitive computer systems will be overhauled in time," a spokesman said.

The private sector warning came from such business leaders as Bob Bauman, chairman of British Aerospace; Niall Fitzgerald of Unilever; Sir Sydney Lipworth, chairman of pharmaceutical giant Zeneca; James Schlesinger, former US defence secretary now with US bankers Lehman Bros; and James Perrella, head of Ingersoll-Rand. It was also signed by a string of academics and bankers after a December meeting in California.

They called for "rapid and focused" action to avoid major, potentially dangerous disruption.

"Contingency plans, inside and outside government, are needed to deal with the failures that may occur despite the most diligent effort. Many businesses plan to complete their work in time to allow a full year's testing before January 1 2000 — a practice public agencies should follow."

Mr Guenier, whose body has lost government funding, wants the government to treat the issue "on a war footing" and wrote to Mr Blair last week warning him: "We are getting it wrong. If we continue to do so, the harm to the economy will be substantial and the lives of millions of people will be unnecessarily damaged. That would be unforgivable — and an appalling way of entering the new millennium."

Notebook, page 11

'There is always a bottom line. In what way can I help?'

continued from page 1

Mr Snowden: "I don't know how to phrase this, Richard. There is always a bottom line. I'll get to the point, in what way can we help you?"

There was a pause, before Mr Snowden continued: "I mean, what could I do for you personally?"

Mr Branson: "What on earth do you mean?"

Mr Snowden: "Everybody needs something."

Mr Branson: "I'm quite successful already. I only need one breakfast, one lunch and one dinner a day. The only way you can help us is by joining our consortium."

Mr Carman said Mr Branson was "astonished" at the bribe.

"Somebody once said that England and America are divided by a common language," he said. "But there is a universal language of bribery and the language of bribery speaks loud and clear and leaves an everlasting impression in the mind."

The court was told that Mr Branson was so shocked that after an "ugly pause" he excused himself, went to the toilet and scribbled a note of the conversation on a piece of paper. He later copied it into another notepad.

The court was told that four days later Mr Branson received a phone call from Sir Tim Bell, the PR guru who was handling publicity for G-Tech, who said that Mr Snowden "might have said something that he might regret". Sir Tim asked if Mr Branson was "going to the press about it".

Although Mr Branson said he mentioned the incident informally to Peter Davis, the director general of Oflot, Mr Carman said he had not decided to go public about the allegations until approached by Panorama in 1995.

The case, before Mr Justice Morland, continues.

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Shirley Bassey (left) denies slapping a former assistant, Hilary Levy (right), and calling her a 'Jewish bitch'

Shirley Bassey not a big spender says aide given a 'fake' Chanel purse

Russridh Nicoll

DIAMONDS may be forever but a fake Chanel purse — never! A girl just has to go to court when presented with such a déclassé present from the great Shirley Bassey.

Hilary Levy, Ms Bassey's sometime assistant for 15 years, is suing her boss for breach of contract, not just for the bag but also for allegedly slapping her and calling her a "Jewish bitch".

The singer who brings camp society to its knees threw a full-blown, claws out fit in a Cape Town hotel, said to Ms Levy.

"She hit me on the back," the 44-year-old told Brentford county court in west London yesterday. "If I had had a camera I would have taken a picture of the slap mark on my back."

The court was told that the trouble began after a show in December, 1993. A member of the entourage was celebrating a birthday and Ms Bassey had been drinking.

"People were letting their hair down," said Philip Kolvin, for Ms Bassey. He admitted his client was drunk.

Ms Levy said she had had only one glass of wine because she preferred red, while white was all that was on offer. "You will have to go without," Ms Bassey told her.

They returned to their hotel some time after 2am, where insult flared into argument. Ms Levy was told that she could not have the next day off. Instead Ms Bassey asked her to do some shopping before waking her just before lunch.

Ms Levy then left her boss in her room but, annoyed, turned back. "Do you expect me to work 24 hours a day?" she asked before turning on her heel *and slamming the door.*

The accounts of what followed vary dramatically.

What is certain is that Ms Bassey turned up at her assistant's door. "I went after her into her bedroom," said Ms Bassey. "I was pointing my finger at her, saying 'Don't you dare slam the door in my face again'."

Ms Levy said she could not remember Ms Bassey pointing, only that she was scared by how close she came.

"She came towards me as if she was going to hit me and I said: 'Don't hit me'."

She then claimed Ms Bassey hit her and called her a "Jewish bitch".

Ms Bassey objected: "No, I was waving my finger at her and was amazed when she said 'Do not hit me'. She was hysterical, she was screaming . . . she had been acting strange all evening. I wanted to know why she *was so angry.*

"I pushed her. I did not slap her . . . I pushed her."

Ms Bassey denied making any anti-semitic comments, pointing out that some of her best friends were Jewish.

"As I walked out I said 'You are a spoilt Jewish princess'. I certainly did not call her a bitch. I do not use words like that."

Ms Levy is claiming £7,650 for lost earnings during a tour of the Far East.

The case continues today, when the mystery of the purse may may be cleared up and show whether or not Ms Bassey is a big spender. What seems clear is that she will not be spending even a little time with Ms Levy from now on.

Catalogue of errors left paedophile free to kill boy

Lawrence Donegan

AN INQUIRY into the police investigation of the murder of a nine-year-old boy by a paedophile was ordered yesterday after an independent report found a catalogue of errors in handling the case.

Grampian chief constable Ian Oliver has asked Lothian police to review his force's inquiry into the murder of Scott Simpson, found strangled after being abducted from a children's playground near his home in Aberdeen last July.

Stephen Leisk, a convicted paedophile living opposite the playground, was jailed for life for the killing. There were calls for a public inquiry amid claims that the police and Aberdeen council social workers had failed to identify 34-year-old Leisk as a suspect, despite his criminal history.

The boy's family and local residents alleged that Grampian police did not take seriously enough claims that he might have been abducted. Detectives only interviewed Leisk — who confessed almost immediately — after one of his relatives told them he was living in Aberdeen.

The report, ordered by Aberdeen council, yesterday concluded there had been a "clear failure" on the part of at least one council social worker to monitor Leisk closely enough.

Under a supervision order imposed after a previous conviction in Orkney, social workers were required to visit Leisk at least every two weeks. But at the time of Scott Simpson's death, he had not been seen by the city's social work department for two months.

Ian McManus, the report's author, said last night he was not able to say whether the failure to carry out the supervision order *had contributed* to "the terrible conclusion to this case".

"Nonetheless, with hindsight, it is possible to identify a variety of structural factors and individual decisions which, were they to be addressed, might help prevent the same situation arising. A well qualified, experienced and committed social worker was deceived by his client, failed to meet the minimum standards and colluded in reducing the quantity of supervision to a token level."

Dr McManus made a number of recommendations, including the need to ensure national standards for the supervision of paedophiles were always met and that social workers did not work alone with sex offenders.

His findings were welcomed by Dr Oliver, who conceded *that the police had to* learn "important lessons" from its conduct during the Scott Simpson murder inquiry.

"These include our search procedures, the arrangements for the recording of information on sex offenders, the proper recording of police direction, the prioritisation of house to house inquiries and management of the media," he said.

Dr Oliver said the new Sex Offenders Act — which requires the registration of convicted paedophiles — *would improve the opportunities* for co-operative work between the police, social work departments and other agencies.

● Sheffield council is today severely censured for the poor quality of its social services and for exposing vulnerable children and adults to unacceptable risk, *writes David Brindle.*

Inspectors say they found that the council, a pioneer of municipal socialism in the 1980s, was managing its £90 million social services budget so badly that it could not allocate *social workers for almost* 100 children on the at-risk *register. More than 2,500* people, many of them elderly, were waiting for assessments of their care needs.

Eighty patients, ready for discharge, were taking up hospital beds because the council had not arranged further care for them.

It was also found to be failing in its duty to inspect conditions in threequarters of the city's care homes.

Sheffield admits its failings and has launched a three-year plan to improve services. It insists things have already got better since the joint inspection, last spring, by the Audit Commission and the Government's Social Services Inspectorate.

However, Andrew Foster, the commission's controller, said: "They must maintain and improve the speed of development."

The inspection was carried out under a rolling programme of reviews of all social services authorities in England.

Although Sheffield has made social services cuts of almost £22 million since 1993, the inspectors say the main problem is not lack of money but how the funds are spent.

Average costs of residential care were £241 a week, *compared to a national average* £199.



Stephen Leisk: admitted the killing almost immediately



Scott Simpson: abducted from a playground

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Murder case 'proof positive' against man held in France

Sarah Hall

A MAN accused of the murder of his girlfriend and the attempted murder of a prostitute implicated himself by leaving blood, semen and fingerprints at the scene of the crimes, a court heard yesterday.

The presence of Victor Farrant's fingerprints was "proof positive" he killed Glenda Hoskins, 45, in Portsmouth in February 1996, and tried to murder Ann Fidler, then 43, in Eastleigh, both Hampshire, in December 1995, Jeremy Gibbons QC, said.

DNA testing on blood and semen meant there was only a 1 in 15 million chance anyone else was guilty, he told Winchester crown court.

The court heard how Farrant, 48, who denies both charges, left finger and palm prints on an iron he broke as he hit prostitute Mrs Fidler around the head. In the case of Mrs Hoskins, semen matching his DNA profile was found and his fingerprints were near her naked body.

Mr Gibbons, prosecuting, told the court that the women were very different and had very different lives: one was a prostitute and one an accountant; one lived in a terraced house, one in a luxury marina; Mrs Fidler met Farrant once, but Mrs Hoskins was his girlfriend.

But he said both crimes were premeditated. The iron wielded at Mrs Fidler had been "aimed by the attacker with murder in his heart". He added: "Why did he take a chisel and a knife? We say it is indicative of a degree of premeditation."

The court heard that Mrs Fidler was beaten so savagely she needed nine pints of blood, and her husband could not recognise her after breaking down the kitchen door.

"There was blood on the appliances in the kitchen and glass all over the floor," Mr Gibbons said. There were also the remains of three broken bottles, allegedly used as weapons. But he said that although Farrant had tried to cover his tracks, he had left his blood on the kitchen taps.

Mr Gibbons said Farrant and Mrs Hoskins had had a relationship since about August 1993, and in the two days before she died he was seen hanging around near her waterside home.

On February 7, Mrs Hoskins's 15-year-old daughter found her mother's body. A pathologist gave the cause of death as asphyxia. Although the signs were not typical, his findings were consistent with drowning. It was suggested Farrant had sex with her then killed her in the bath.

Mr Gibbons said pieces of paper were found in the defendant's flat, and although the top copies were missing tests on pressure marks on paper below showed some of what had been written.

One read: "Read this and take it very seriously, it is not a joke. Do not ask any questions or say anything and then make your choice, do not say or do anything other than what I instruct you to do or say." The document warned: "I will not repeat myself, you will not get a second chance. If I have to use violence to get what I want I will. It will make no difference to me. I'm going to get what I want either way, the choice is yours.

"Be good and willing to me and you will come to no harm. I will be gentle but remember you must show willing and responsive."

On the evening Mrs Hoskins was murdered the defendant left the country from Ramsgate. He was detained in France in July 1996 and was charged after being brought back to Britain in January 1997.

The case continues.



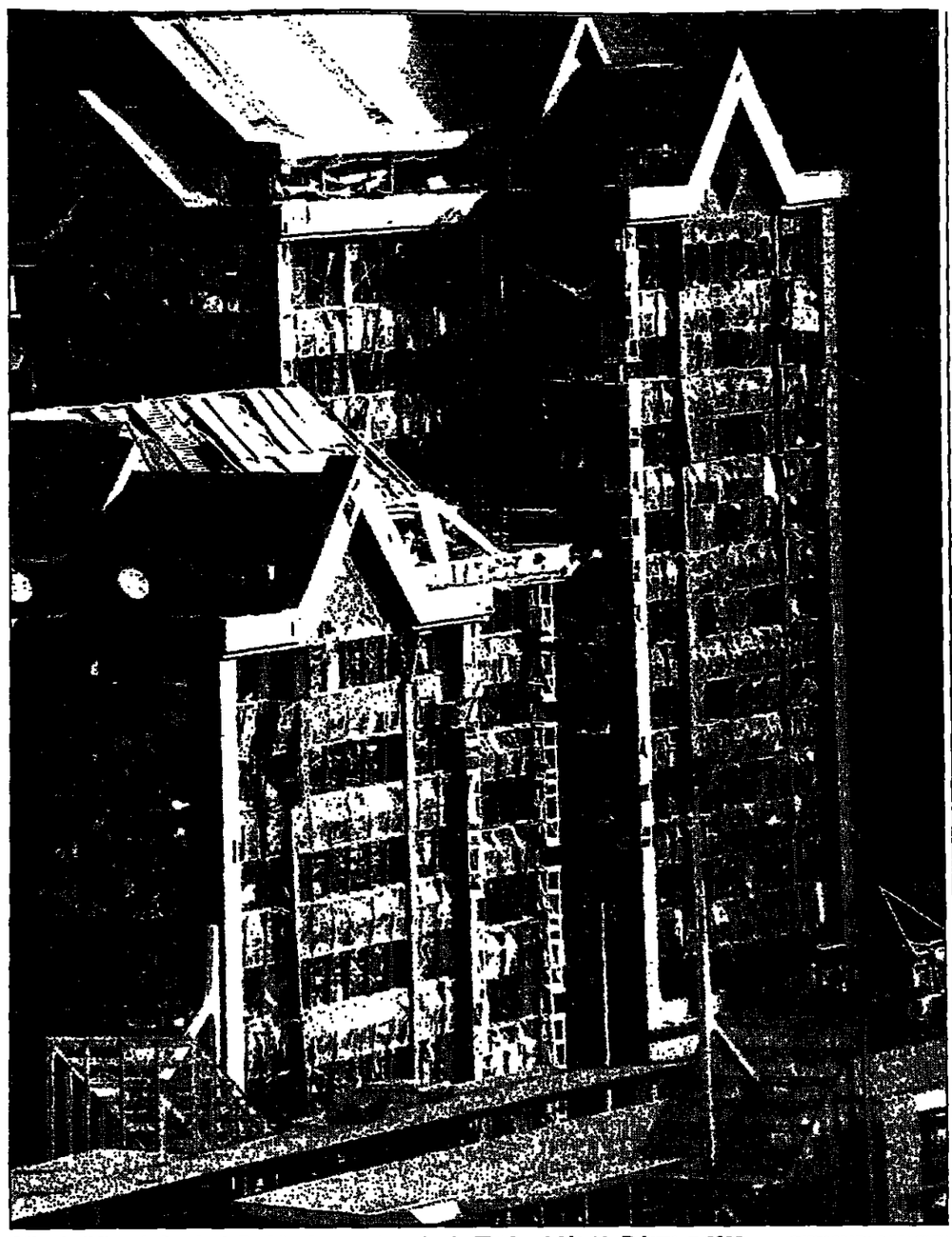
Accused: Victor Farrant, who denies the charges



Victim: Glenda Hoskins, whose daughter found body

Old Bailey trial hears details of IRA Docklands blast which claimed two lives ● Prosecution alleges 'inextricable link' with conspiracy

Bomb victims blown through walls



Office buildings in London's Docklands, devastated by the IRA bomb blast in February, 1996 PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID GILES

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

TWO men who died in the IRA bomb at Canary Wharf nearly two years ago were blown through two walls by the force of the explosion, an Old Bailey jury heard yesterday.

The bomb brought an end to the 18-month-long ceasefire, and it was only after a "meticulous investigation" that two men were arrested in connection with it, the court heard.

"An inaccurate and wholly inadequate warning had been given," John Bevan QC, prosecuting, said about the explosion, which took place in London's Docklands at 6.59pm on Friday, February 9, 1996, and caused £150 million damage.

The two men who died, newsagent Inam Bashir, 29, and his assistant, John Jeffries, 31, had just been told to leave their shop by a police officer, PC Roger Degraff, but possibly did not take his warning seriously enough and were killed instantly.

James McCardle, aged 30, denies murdering both men. He and Patrick McKinley, aged 34, both deny conspiring to cause explosions.

McCardle had been a "central figure playing a crucial role," said Mr Bevan, while McKinley had a lesser part to play in the background.

Finger, thumb and palm prints linked McCardle "inextricably" to the conspiracy, but the evidence against McKinley was *not clear cut*. "The IRA go to great lengths to cover their tracks," he said.

McKinley was at his home in South Armagh at the time of the explosion, the court heard, but it was claimed that he was linked to the conversion of the lorry into a bomb-carrying vehicle.

The newsagent's shop was at the centre of the blast from several tons of home-made explosive, which had been hidden on a lorry parked at South Quay earlier in the day. A police officer had taken its number.

The warning given by the IRA did not leave police enough time to clear the area, which was crowded at the time with people preparing to leave their offices for the weekend. Mr Inam and Mr Jeffries were killed instantly.





The accused . . . James McCardle (left) and Patrick McKinley, who deny involvement

The two men were both blown through two walls into the next shop but one, the court heard. It was "miraculous" that more people did not die, but many suffered lacerations from falling glass and perforated eardrums from the blast. More than 40 were injured.

A Moroccan family, the Berrezags, who worked as cleaners for the local Midland Bank branch, had also been severely hurt. The father suffered loss of memory, and the son suffered facial injuries and perforated eardrums. Another victim, Barbara Osei, needed 300 stitches for head injuries.

Debris had been scattered in a radius of up to 300 yards. A crater 32 feet wide and 10 feet deep had been left by the explosion.

The bomb was made out of tons of home-made explosive (HME) consisting of fertiliser and icing sugar ground down and mixed together. A booster-tube, made out of a scaffolding type of pole, had been added as had two electric timing devices.

The lorry used for the bomb had previously belonged to British Gas and had been converted into a car transporter. A dummy run from Northern Ireland to Carlisle had been carried out in January 1996.

"It was a mobile bomb masquerading as a transporter," said Mr Bevan. It had been spotted earlier on the day of the bombing in Barking, east London. Police investigations in that area had later turned up vital clues that led them to McKinley's premises in Northern Ireland and to McCardle, the court was told. A tachograph disc, of the kind used by lorry-drivers to show how far they had driven, was found hidden in a tyre.

It was a mystery why the bombers had left the incriminating items behind them, said Mr Bevan, but it could have been that they had made a mistake or that they had thought they were being observed at the time.

The case continues.





The victims . . . John Jeffries (left) and Inam Bashir, who were killed instantly

Car survey has Spanish hatchback top-value buy on 13.3p per mile

Emily Sheffield

IF YOU need a little runaround that will not topple you into the red then a Spanish car is your best buy, according to a survey yesterday.

The Seat Arosa 1.0 MPi three-door hatchback is the top value car on British roads, with running costs at only 13.3 pence per mile. Close behind come the British Rover Metro and the Malaysian Perodua Nippa hatchback, both at 13.7 pence per mile.

The Skoda, butt of jokes in the past, is in the top 20 for UK value for money, according to the statistics, from the automotive data company, CAP Motor Research.

A gap of 3.6 pence per mile separates the Arosa from the Nissan Micra 1.3 GX in 40th position — which could represent a saving of £2,160 over 60,000 miles.

The figures are based on purchase price, together with fuel economy, servicing costs and depreciation. John Zammett, Seat's spokesman, said yesterday: "The Arosa comes out top because it's cheap to buy, cheap to run and resembles Dr Who's Tardis — small on the outside but big on the inside — perfect for parking in cities."

He said most of the small-engined cars in the CAPS list were designed for an expanding niche in the market referred to as the "super-mini sector".

"These cars are for people who live in built-up areas and just want something economic to commute a few miles to work. Before they might have driven an Escort; now, because little cars have got power steering, five-speed gearboxes and faster acceleration, people are swopping. We expect the Arosa to be our biggest seller next year."

Mark Norman, editor of CAP Monitor, a fleet industry publication, said yesterday: "Manufacturers are designing better quality small cars that are increasingly cheap to run.

"The majority of car usage is localised, which is why people want vehicles that have low running costs and will sell for a good price second-hand.

"For most people, insurance prices are more important than looking flash."

Top ten cars

Value for money, UK

		*Cost (p)		†Price (£)
Seat	Arosa 1.0 MPI hatchback 3dr	13.3	Spanish	6,850
Perodua	Nippa hatchback Ex Hatchback 5dr	13.7	Malaysian	5,740
Rover	100 1.1 Ascot hatchback 3dr	13.7	British	6,350
Rover	100 Diesel 1.5 D Ascot SE hatchback 3dr	13.7	British	7,350
Suzuki	New Alto 1.0 hatchback 3dr	14.1	Japanese	6,175
Suzuki	New Swift 1.0 GLS hatchback 3dr	14.2	Japanese	6,720
Daihatsu	Cuore hatchback 3dr	14.3	Japanese	6,355
Ford	Ka 1.3i hatchback 3dr	14.7	US	7,850
Fiat	Cinquecento S hatchback 3dr	14.9	Italian	6,496
VW	New Polo 1.0 hatchback 3dr	14.9	German	8,000



*Pence per mile. Running cost figures based on depreciation, fuel and servicing over three years/60,000 miles

†On the road price. £

Source: CAP Motor Research

Sinn Fein committed to peace process

McLaughlin warns of 'doomsday scenario' if negotiations fail

John Mullin
Ireland Correspondent

A DOWNBEAT Sinn Fein last night warned of a "doomsday scenario" if negotiations to resolve Northern Ireland's future failed. It would be staying in the peace process to discuss Tony Blair's blueprint towards a settlement despite labelling it "a sop to Unionists".

In an effort to inject pace into the process, the talks are to move to London this month. They will then go to Dublin next month. The participating parties detest conditions at Stormont.

Mitchel McLaughlin, Sinn Fein chairman, said the party remained committed to the talks. But Ulster Unionists had to engage fully in good-faith negotiations, he said. There would be no "wholly" internal settlement.

Mr McLaughlin said: "We have a very limited opportunity to establish a stable, democratic and peaceful future." Otherwise the "doomsday scenario" would be a reality.

Bairbre de Brun, a Sinn Fein negotiator, later denied Mr McLaughlin was hinting at a return to IRA violence. "He was very clearly talking about managing change in a way to bring to an end what's happening on our streets."

Three Catholics have been shot dead by the Loyalist Volunteer Force since the murder of its leader, Billy Wright. Sinn Fein believed the violence had forced the British and Irish governments to make concessions to Unionists.

There were tacit admissions that hardline republicans would be disappointed with the document agreed between the British and Irish governments. That will put pressure on the movement's unity behind talks now unlikely to deliver much of what Sinn Fein wants.

Mr McLaughlin said there had always been sceptics. But Sinn Fein was at the peace process to say there was an alternative to people turning "in desperation" to the armed struggle. "We will discharge that mandate as long as we have the support of the electorate," he said.

The 600-word document forwarded by the British and Irish governments is to be used as a basis for negotiations. But it is more than that: any proposed settlement will be close to its provisions.

It provides for a devolved assembly, a council of ministers between Northern Ireland and the republic, and an intergovernmental council, a way of framing relationships involving the assemblies in Scotland and Wales as well as Westminster and Dublin. It is how these bodies interact which will form the battleground.

George Mitchell, the former US senator who is chairman of the talks, said he was "greatly encouraged" by the parties' decision to use the British-Irish document as the basis for negotiations. "We believe the parties are serious and determined."

The document was a way of facilitating negotiations, he said. "There was no effort to obtain the commitment of any party to all or any part of it. Several parties expressed reservations. That was no surprise. I expect Sinn Fein to be an active and vigorous participant in this process."

Mr Mitchell believed recent violence had concentrated the parties' resolve.

Sinn Fein's position is to use the document, which is more attractive to Unionists than the Framework Document of 1995, to challenge the Government's assertion that it is the best way to ensure that the parties engage. It has claimed Ulster Unionists have refused to do so.

But David Trimble, UUP leader, said there was now little point in the round-the-table meetings which Sinn Fein favours. Negotiations should happen in the smaller committees, he said.

David Andrews, the Irish foreign minister, left Stormont to attend a vigil outside the west Belfast home of the latest victim of The Troubles, Terry Enright, aged 28. He was gunned down outside a Belfast night club early on Sunday, and will be cremated today.

Elderly aunt was murdered to save on care fees, court told

Clare Longrigg

A WOMAN drowned her elderly aunt to prevent nursing-home fees eating up her inheritance, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

The jury heard that Sheila Bowler, aged 68, picked up Florence Jackson, aged 89, known to family and friends as "Aunt Flo", from the home in May 1992, drove to the River Brede in East Sussex, and pushed her in. After what was a "deliberate and planned killing", Mrs Bowler set up a cover story to report her aunt missing. She parked a quarter of a mile from the river, deflated a tyre, and, on returning with help, claimed that her aunt must have wandered off. The body was found the next day.

It is the second time Mrs Bowler, a widowed music teacher from Rye in East Sussex, has faced trial. In 1993 she was found guilty of murder and spent four years in prison, before new medical evidence raised the possibility that the death was an accident. Last June the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham, ordered a retrial. Mrs Bowler denies murder.

Yesterday, Anthony Glass QC, prosecuting, told the jury that the aunt had owned a flat in Rye. Mrs Bowler, who had power of attorney for her aunt, could "reasonably have expected" that she would inherit the property.

However, the aunt was paying £242 a week for her care in Greyfriars residential home in Winchelsea; at her death she owed £3,000. Despite requests from East Sussex social services, the court heard, Mrs Bowler had refused to complete a form that would have allowed the council to order the flat's sale to recover the fees.

"Mrs Bowler had a financial interest in the death of her aunt," said Mr Glass. The case was "murder or nothing, murder or accident".

Much would depend on medical evidence, Mr Glass told the jury. "The issue, you may conclude, is likely to be whether Florence Jackson could have left the car on her own and walked a distance of about one-quarter of a mile to her accidental death."

Deborah Freeman, a care officer at Greyfriars, told the court she had never seen Mrs Jackson walk unaided. She described how she took slow, small shuffly steps. Just before she died, she had fractured her wrist and had been using a wheelchair.

Questioned by Jeffrey Roberts for the defence, Mrs Freeman agreed that old people could become nervous of walking unaided. She also agreed that nursing staff often assist the elderly and put them in a wheelchair to save time.

The case continues.

"I enjoy it more now than ever before. I don't know where this energy comes from, it must be genetic, but it remains undiminished."
Lord Weidenfeld, 78, on work

G2 cover story

Church hopes Lincoln's new dean will put an end to 10-year rift

Madeleine Bunting
Religious Affairs Editor

THE most difficult post in the Church of England, which involves healing a 10-year-old feud between senior clerics, has been filled with the announcement yesterday of a Dean of Lincoln.

The Venerable Alexander Knight, the current Archdeacon of Basingstoke and Canon Residentiary of Winchester, replaces the Very Rev Brandon Jackson, who resigned last October after a bitter and highly public dispute with his sub-dean, Canon Rex Davis.

At a press conference in Lincoln yesterday, Archdeacon Knight made a tactful reference to the affair: "I am aware of the past, but I have come to look to the future and in a sense to draw a line under the past.

"I am a team player and I hope to use my experience to establish good relations between the cathedral and the diocese."

The ferocity of the battle between Dean Jackson and Canon Davis — which often included colourful references to the devil's involvement — was such that in 1996 the Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, made an unprecedented intervention and called for both to resign.

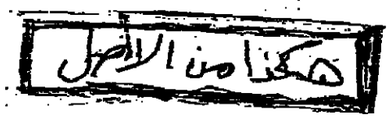
But in humiliating defiance of his authority, neither agreed to go. Last July the deadlock was broken when, after prolonged financial negotiations, Dean Jackson announced he would leave in October. Archdeacon Knight has not met either Dean Jackson or Canon Davis; the latter is attending a family funeral in Australia, and he sent a faxed message of support as well as signing a letter of welcome to the new dean.

"I was aware of the troubles here but I didn't pay them much attention," said Archdeacon Knight. "I want to get the cathedral off the front pages of newspapers."

Aged 58, he has been canon of Winchester for seven years, giving him experience of running a big, historical cathedral. He also has a reputation of being an effective organiser and good with people. His churchmanship is middle of the road, neither evangelical nor Anglo-Catholic.

He has also been active in a diocesan marriage counselling programme, learning skills that could now be of use to him.

The Bishop of Lincoln, the Rt Rev Robert Hardy, was delighted by the appointment. He said: "The past has been an unhappy period, but I am very optimistic about the future."



Iraq pushes UN 'toward the brink'

Julian Borger, and Mark Tran in New York

IRAQ blocked a United States-led United Nations inspection team from carrying out a weapons search yesterday, provoking a thinly-veiled US threat of military action.

The UN special commission (Unscom) inspection trip led by Scott Ritter, an American Gulf-war veteran, was called off after its Iraqi escorts failed to show up.

This amounted to a veto on the inspection, as Unscom officials are not able to enter suspected Iraqi weapons sites without government "minders".

In response, US officials called on the UN Security Council to take a hard line against Baghdad's behaviour, but said Washington was ready to act alone if necessary.

Mike McCurry, the White House spokesman, did not explicitly threaten punitive military action, but said: "We've got two big carrier battle groups that are in the Gulf."

Meanwhile the Security Council acted to shore up the authority of Richard Butler, its chief weapons inspector, as he prepares for another round of negotiations in Baghdad next week. It is expected to issue another denunciation of Iraq's defiance today.

A Russian foreign ministry official said his country was "taking active steps" to resolve the new crisis. Russian intervention in November helped avoid military confrontation after an earlier Iraqi attempt to exclude US inspectors. Baghdad climbed down on that occasion, but maintained its refusal to allow inspectors into "sensitive sites", including palaces belonging to President Saddam Hussein.

The Iraqi government took exception to the new 16 member UN inspection team which arrived on Sunday, arguing that — with nine Americans and five Britons — it was unbalanced.

Officials singled out the team leader, Scott Ritter, as an alleged CIA agent.

A Baghdad newspaper labelled him a "hyena in the public service of American intelligence".

Mr Ritter described the allegations as ridiculous. "This is an unfortunate turn of events. As a result I have had no choice but to postpone the inspection ... I will report to the [Unscom] executive chairman and seek additional instructions at that time."

Other UN inspection teams were allowed to carry out their duties yesterday, but Unscom insisted that it should have a free hand in determining their composition.

Unscom sources say Mr Ritter specialises in analysing and countering the concealment tactics which the UN suspects the Iraqi Republican Guard employs to hide biological and chemical weapons.

The US was lobbying for a tough stance against Iraq before a Security Council meeting last night. Its ambassador to the UN, Bill Richardson, said: "Patience is running out in a lot of Security Council capitals. The Iraqis are really pushing this to the brink."

Cook softens line on Iran

Ian Black Diplomatic Editor

BRITAIN is urging the United States and the European Union to find new ways of dealing with Iran as its president, Mohammed Khatami, signals his readiness for a better relationship with the West.

In what diplomats say is a big shift, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, is to call on the US to drop its sanctions policy and capitalise on the "new tone" expressed in Mr Khatami's interview with CNN television last week.

Mr Cook, who is due to visit Washington tomorrow, also wants to use Britain's six-month presidency of the EU to find an alternative to the Union's "critical dialogue" with Iran, which was suspended last year after Tehran was implicated in terrorist killings in a Berlin restaurant.

But at the same time he will be working to forge a European consensus on new measures to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons and supporting terrorism.

"Unilateral American sanctions will not work, nor will the old-style EU critical dialogue," said a senior Foreign Office official. "We need to find a new way to approach this important country."



President Khatami: A 'new tone' towards the West

The Foreign Office believes Britain is strategically placed to broker an EU-US agreement on handling Tehran, by helping President Clinton fend off demands from Congress for sanctions against non-US companies investing in Iran's energy sector.

Madeleine Albright, the US secretary of state, has to decide by the end of the month whether to impose sanctions on the French oil company Total, as well as Russian and Malaysian companies that are taking part in a £1.2 billion offshore gas project in defiance of the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act.

US officials say commitments by the EU to restrict exports of dual-use technology to Iran and increase intelligence-sharing could help the administration placate Congress and avoid a transatlantic trade war.

"We share a concern that discord over policy on Iran doesn't serve either US or European interests," said one state department official. "The only ones who benefit are the hardliners in Iran."

British diplomats say that since Mr Khatami's election last summer, Iran has softened its angry rhetoric on the Arab-Israeli peace process and been helpful on regional issues such as Afghanistan.

Acknowledging the first public sign of a coherent shift by Britain, officials in London say the Government is anxious not to fall behind more eager Europeans like Germany and Italy, or to miss a chance to embolden Mr Khatami and other moderates.

Mr Cook will also tell a Washington audience that Britain needs progress on the death sentence imposed on The Satanic Verses author, Salman Rushdie, who is still living under a permanent police guard. Tehran insists it will not send anyone to kill him, but claims it cannot annul the *fatwa* issued by Ayatollah Khomeini in 1989.

Diplomats say that one carrot the EU could offer Iran is rescinding the ban on high-level ministerial visits, imposed after the Berlin affair.

Israel imposes fresh hurdle to West Bank troop exit

Julian Borger Middle East Correspondent

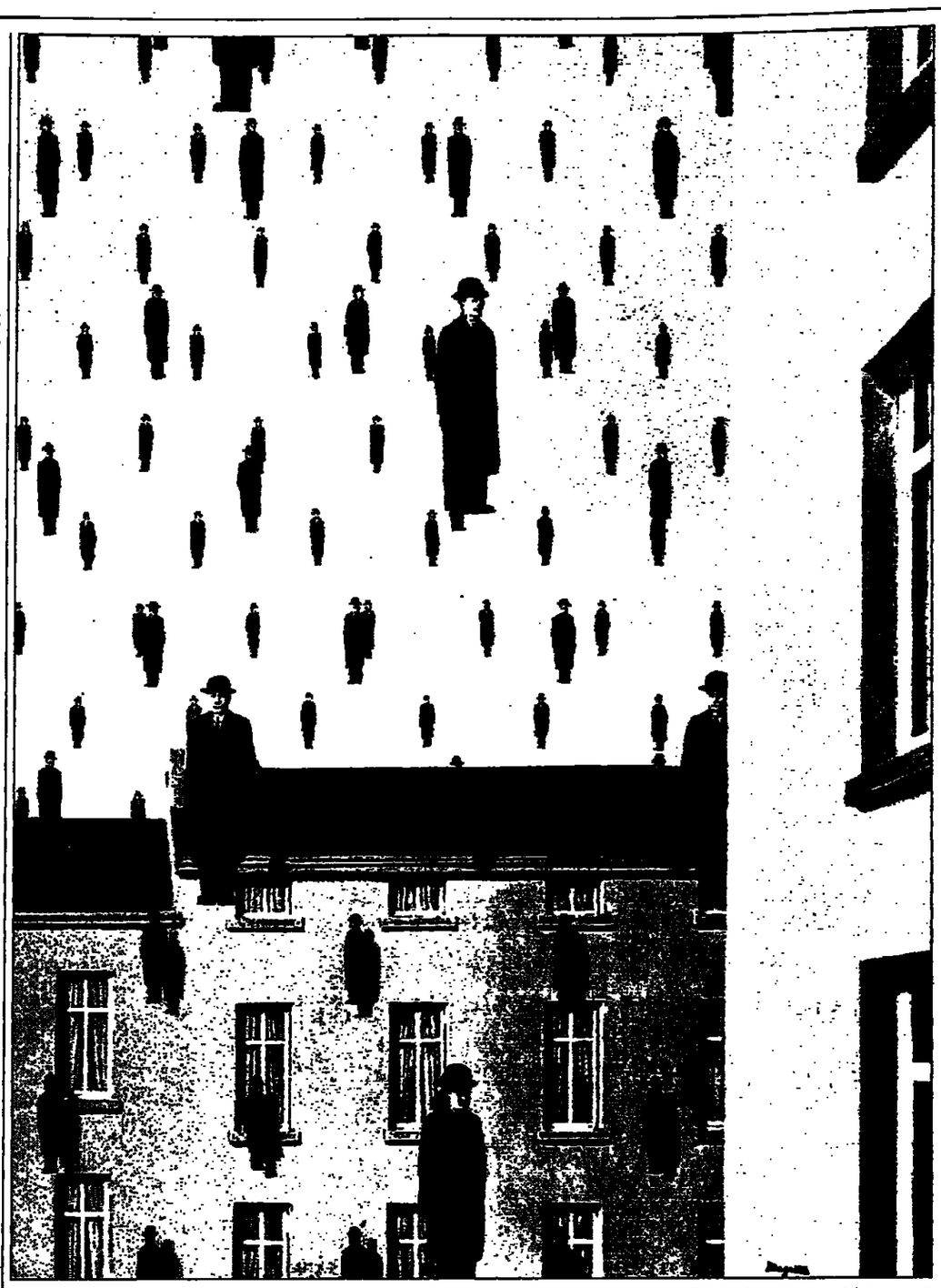
THE Israeli cabinet yesterday laid down a list of conditions the Palestinian authorities must fulfil before the next Israeli troop withdrawal from the West Bank, but the Palestinians immediately denounced the demands as "stalling tactics".

The cabinet said no more West Bank districts would be handed over until the Palestinian leadership made "systematic and effective" efforts to combat terrorism, reduce its security forces from 40,000 to 24,000, and amend its constitution to recognise explicitly Israel's right to exist.

"We are fulfilling all our commitments and we expect that the Palestinians will fulfil theirs," the prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, said.

Palestinian officials said they had already implemented these undertakings, part of an agreement signed when Israel withdrew from Hebron a year ago. They pointed out that Palestinian police had raided members of the armed wing of the militant Islamic movement Hamas at the weekend, and captured a bomb factory, in a joint action with Israeli security forces.

Saeb Erekat, a principal Palestinian negotiator, said: "We tell Netanyahu: enough games, enough stalling. We need to give peace a chance."



Detail from Magritte's Golconde. He once said: 'My art is only valuable as far as it struggles against bourgeois ideology'



Detail from René Magritte's The Lovers. Researchers say the cloth-covered faces recall his mother's death

'It is a massive distortion, a shift towards the pseudo-culture of the theme park. You cannot promote surrealism like the Smurfs or the Manneken-Pis'

The survivors of art's most subversive movement are bristling at the Belgian establishment's plans for a massive retrospective of René Magritte, writes MARTIN WALKER in Brussels

Belgians' surreality check

A SURREAL war has broken out in Belgium, as veterans of the most revolutionary movement in art rally in horror against an arts festival in honour of the surrealist master René Magritte. The retrospective, to mark his centenary, is being billed by others as the biggest cultural event in Europe this year.

"[The festival] has absolutely nothing to do with the internationalist and subversive spirit of surrealism," complains Jacques Lacomblez, a surrealist painter himself and an old friend of Magritte.

The Belgian art critic Xavier Cannone, who sees the dark hand of Disneyfication at work, says: "It is a massive distortion, a shift towards the pseudo-culture of the theme park. You cannot promote surrealism like the Smurfs or the Manneken-Pis."

Mr Lacomblez, whose own paintings are in the national museum collection, is refusing to lend his Belgian surrealist collection to the festival, Surrealism '98. "It is a matter of ethics," he says.

Surviving surrealists are up in arms and, despite their advanced years, there is some nervousness among the exhibition organisers that they are plotting some bizarre happening to disrupt the big show.

The Royal Museum of Fine Arts, the Belgian government and its tourist boards and cultural offices have banded together to mount the biggest-ever retrospective of Magritte's work at the museum. Its own collection of 150 Magrittes is being doubled by loans from galleries and collectors around the world.

Magritte died in 1967, still trying to shake off the notion that he was the father of pop art. Since then he has proved the most enduring of the surrealist painters.

His jarring juxtaposition of images — which included a woman with genitals instead of a face, and an enormous pipe fit for a giant smoker with the inscription 'This is not a pipe' — embody the strangeness and shock value that gave surrealism its artistic and political force.

Both a political and artistic revolutionary, Magritte joined the Communist Party. He declared: "My art is only valuable as far as it struggles against bourgeois ideology, in whose name life itself is snuffed out."

This old revolutionary has now been embraced by the establishment, whose homage to him will dominate the Royal Museum of Fine Arts from March to June of this year while 92 other Surrealism '98 events take place around the country. His house and even his favourite pub, The Greenwich, where he used to play chess, are part of a "Magritte Trail" for tourists.

The artist's centenary is being exploited to promote Belgium as "a country within the reach of dreams".

Magritte was amused by the complex psychological interpretations of his work, by "our friend, Freud", among others. An exhibition of his letters shows one, written in English on a visit to London in 1937, recounting wryly that one of his paintings was seen as a metaphor for castration. He adds that his friends "find Brussels very erotic, but London not the least so".

Magritte began as a designer of wallpaper. He later subsidised his art by designing everything from fashion ads to wine labels. His first one-man exhibition, in Brussels in 1927, was savaged by the critics. He moved to Paris, to work with surrealism's founder, André Breton, who once defined surrealism as "the cuckoo's egg dropped into the nest with the complicity of René Magritte".

He went on holidays to Spain with Salvador Dali, and inspired Paul Eluard's poem which found in his paintings "a great mystery which can never be explained. So much the better".

But the thick and glossy catalogue for the exhibition offers an explanation of one mystery. It is the product of intense research by the museum's curators and relates to one of Magritte's best-known paintings, The Lovers, on loan from Australia.

It depicts a couple standing close together, their heads swathed in white cloth. In 1912, when Magritte was 13, his mother drowned herself in the local river Sambre. When her body was recovered, her head was swathed in her white dress.

France left paralysed by horrors of Algeria

Paul Webster in Paris

AT THE newspaper kiosk near the rue Myrha, at the heart of Paris's North African immigrant quarter in the Goutte d'Or, all the Algerian dailies were sold out yesterday morning, a clear indication that the latest massacres are a terrifyingly live issue for the four million Muslims who live in France's big cities.

The papers said that the massacres over the weekend were far bloodier than reported — 400 killed as opposed to 120 — and survivors recounted the horror from their hospital beds.

But the murders also worry the average Frenchman. Several Metro stops away at the Etoile, under the Arc de Triomphe, a squad of soldiers armed with rifles patrolled the platforms, while their leader, a gendarmerie corporal, confirmed that the alert in the city for extremist bombers was at its peak.

These images of a frightened expatriate community, and a city still under armed guard two years after a bombing campaign by Algerian extremists, explain in part why the issue has put France in a state of official paralysis, and glad to hand over responsibility for contact with Algiers to the EU.

The government is not alone in its silence about the former French territory. Protesters, including entertainers and writers, who complained of France's diplomatic inactivity have shelved their movement for fear of provoking a reaction. In the Goutte d'Or itself, where the cafes are empty and the makeshift mosque is full because of Ramadan, Algerian expatriates do not welcome questions.

"Whatever we say might be misunderstood by one side or another," said one passerby. "We keep our opinions to ourselves but we stay informed."

The number of dish aerials hanging from balconies is evidence of a mass link-up to Algerian television. The Algerian government's tendency to censor information has been compensated for by a more active Algerian and French press, despite the high murder rate among journalists.

There has been little official French comment, but the public has never been better informed.

Most French papers now have correspondents in Algeria who give vivid daily despatches, while the biggest massacres regularly lead the television news.

Allegations that the Algerian government manipulated terrorism or that the armed Islamic group, GIA, amounted to little more than gangs involved in a local revenge war rather than a war of religion, are discussed without any conclusion.

One of the many other theories is that the massacres are the result of straightforward conflicts between landowners and poor peasants who expected to benefit from the redistribution of farmland.

Yesterday, after talking to an isolated Algerian community, Le Figaro's reporter quoted a local headman as saying the attackers had started the Ramadan killings because they had been forced to leave their mountain hideouts and were desperately short of food and fuel.

The reports do not agree on any single theory, but there is general agreement that the French will continue to resist pressure for high-level political interference for fear of a domestic backlash.

The authorities here are still haunted by the Airbus hijack at Christmas 1994 by a group of Muslim extremists who believed France favoured the Algerian government. A plan to crash the plane on Paris was only thwarted by a gunfight at Marseille airport.

Cook plans EU mission

BRITAIN and its European Union partners have told Algeria they want to send a mission to "convey public concern" at recent massacres and to explore what they can do to end the violence, *writes Ian Black, Diplomatic Editor*.

Avoiding any suggestion of investigating the killings, the British Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, said last night he had sent a message to his Algerian counterpart, Ahmed Attaf, and was now discussing the timing and programme of the proposed visit, which it is hoped can take place in the next two weeks.

News in brief

Dissident's visit to Britain sparks protest from Beijing

CHINA said yesterday that it had protested to Britain about a visit by the exiled dissident Wei Jingsheng and had warned foreign countries not to use him against Beijing.

"We have already made diplomatic representations to the British government and other countries," the foreign ministry spokesman, Shen Guofang, told reporters. Mr Wei, freed in November after spending most of the last 20 years in Chinese jails, was due to leave Britain yesterday for Paris, where he will address the national assembly's foreign affairs committee.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, who is due to visit Beijing next week, declined a meeting with Mr Wei, citing scheduling difficulties. Britain does not want to offend Beijing during a period of warming relations. The president of the Board of Trade, Margaret Beckett, is in China and Tony Blair plans a visit. — *Reuters*.

Report putting value on Vichy looting is still 'years off'

A COMMISSION investigating the collaborationist Vichy regime's looting of French Jews' property during the second world war has said it is years off being able to put a value on the thefts, *writes Jon Henley in Paris*.

A year after it was set up, the Matteoli commission said in an interim report it would take several years to quantify the value of the pillaged assets because "hundreds of thousands of files and documents" were still buried in government archives.

Some 76,000 of France's 320,000 Jews were sent to Nazi concentration camps. Only about 2,800 of them survived.

But the commission said the government should not necessarily wait until the inquiry was over before it started paying compensation.

Gay man burns at Pope's door

THE Roman Catholic Church's troubled relationship with homosexuals was cast into stark relief yesterday when a 40-year-old man set himself alight in St Peter's Square, *writes John Hooper in Rome*.

Alfredo Ormando, from Sicily, was in a "very serious" condition in a Rome hospital last night, with third-degree burns on about 90 per cent of his body.

Police found letters in Mr Ormando's discarded jacket lamenting his family's and society's failure to understand his personal problems and homosexuality.

He staged his protest at about 8am, as staff arrived at the Vatican. "It looked like a giant torch that was walking," said one man.

The Vatican sought to deny any link between his actions and its condemnation of gay activities as "intrinsically disordered".

The issue was highlighted last week when one of the Pope's gentlemen-in-waiting was the victim of a 'gay killing'.

Boeings fail US checks

EMERGENCY inspections of 68 Boeing 737s have reported missing screws and one loose bolt in the tail sections of three aircraft, the US Federal Aviation Administration said yesterday. The inspections were ordered after a preliminary investigation of the crash last month of a Silk Air Boeingin Sumatra. — *AP*.

He took to sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll so adeptly that his new best freinds, Liam and Noel, had trouble keeping up.

Portrait: Robbie Williams

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هكذا من الاصل

US census chief counts herself out

Martin Kettle in Washington

THE woman supervising the United States census in 2000 has resigned after complaining that bitter legal and political fights are threatening to make a nonsense of the survey.

The departure of Martha Riche as the director of the US census bureau is a blow to President Clinton, who appointed her three years ago. It also casts doubt on whether lessons have been learnt from the disastrous 1990 census, which failed to include more than 10 million people and misplaced another 6 million.

Ms Riche stepped down saying she had accomplished her *organisational goals* and wanted to escape from the political skirmishing which, she said, was preventing her from getting on with the job.

In November her doctor told her she was suffering from mental and physical exhaustion. Describing her role as "a thankless job", she said this week: "I want a life."

At the heart of the census crisis is a ruthless battle between the Republican majority in Congress and the Democratic president. Demographic changes revealed by the census determine the disbursement of millions of dollars of federal aid, the allocation of congressional seats in each state, and the redrawing of electoral maps.

To avoid the problems of 1990 census, the Democrats want the population in 2000 estimated by statistical sampling in addition to the usual head-count.

Such techniques should ensure that hundreds of thousands of legal and illegal citizens and immigrants unwilling to fill in census forms are included. Republican and Democrat party managers believe the missing millions are overwhelmingly Democratic supporters.

The undercount is a particular problem in big cities and states with big Hispanic populations, such as Florida, *Texas and California, all of* which are crucial in a national election. The Los Angeles Times estimated yesterday that the 1990 undercount in California cost the *state* $500 million (£310 million) in federal aid and the loss of an extra congressional district.

Republicans say sampling is illegal because the constitution calls for an "actual enumeration" of all residents. They publicly refer to it as "a risky statistical scheme".

Many observers suspect the White House will fail to find a successor to Ms Riche in time to conduct the 2000 census.



Two teenagers in Utah Lake state park climb blocks of ice piled up on the shore, where they were blown during the current thaw PHOTOGRAPH: BRIAN WINTER

Dole takes Taipei dollar

Martin Kettle in Washington

THE former Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole has caused embarrassment for himself and his party colleague Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, by registering to work as a foreign agent to help Taiwan.

Mr Dole, who left active politics after his defeat by President Bill Clinton in 1996, will try to improve Taiwan's relations with Congress and the Clinton administration. The agreement between the Washington-based Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office, Taiwan's unofficial "embassy" in the US, and Mr Dole's law firm is said to involve a monthly retainer of $30,000 (£20,000).

The potential embarrassment for Mr Gingrich is that Mr Dole gave him $150,000 credit last year to help pay off a $300,000 fine imposed for *misuse of party donations.*

Mr Gingrich promised that he would accept the credit only if Mr Dole was not a registered lobbyist.

A spokeswoman for Mr Gingrich said the Speaker would do whatever the House ethics committee told him to do if it was worried about Mr Dole's work for Taiwan.

The contract follows Mr Dole's visit to the island last May. Mr Dole was said by a spokesman to have been "very reluctant" but to have agreed finally because he had been a long-time legislative supporter of Taiwan.

Under US law, Mr Dole is compelled to register as a "foreign agent" because he will advise Taiwan on political strategies. But the former senator's Washington law firm, Verner Lipfert, denied that the arrangement constituted official lobbying, which would require separate registration.

Mr Dole would merely provide "strategic advice and counselling", it said.

This is unlikely to satisfy Mr Dole's opponents. During the 1996 election he attacked Mr Clinton strongly for alleged illegal foreign contributions and influence.

Commentators agreed yesterday that Mr Dole's reputation is unlikely to suffer from the arrangement, since he is widely seen as a supporter of a bipartisan foreign policy and recently accompanied Mr Clinton on his Christmas visit to Bosnia.

US casinos reel in wealthy 'whales' on a line of endless credit

As competition for the highest of high-rollers turns fierce, the sky has become the only limit. **Brett Pulley** in Las Vegas reports

IT WAS past midnight at the Mirage casino, and the actor Bruce Willis was sitting at a blackjack table, an unlit cigar between his teeth, drinking watermelon juice made especially for him and betting more than $200,000 (£120,000) an hour.

With $8,000 riding on one hand, he was dealt an ace and a 10. He slapped the winning cards down on the table. "Look what I got," he bragged, with more than $50,000 in winnings already in front of him.

At another reserved blackjack table a group of *Willis's friends, drinking* complimentary $275 bottles of Louis Roederer champagne, were betting *thousands on each hand.*

With the competition for wealthy high-stakes gamblers increasing, casino operators like nothing better than to see their top customers, like Willis, the basketball star Dennis Rodman and the Australian media mogul Kerry Packer, betting huge sums and having a good time doing it.

These men belong to an elite but growing group of the highest of high rollers who once played exclusively in a handful of casinos but are now being heavily recruited by casinos across the United States and around the world.

The spread of casinos has made gambling more accessible to average Americans and prompted an increase in slot-machine sections, buffet dinners and theme-park-style attractions to lure middle-income customers. But at the same time, they are spending more time and money than ever courting people like Willis, a "premium player", and Mr Packer, who is in a top tier of gamblers known as whales.

Premium players, who bet from $100,000 to $250,000 a visit, number in the thousands. But whales, who gamble more than $1 million each visit and may have lines of credit up to $20 million, number about 250 in the world, those who recruit them say.

The competition for the top high rollers is global. US casinos are trying to compete with the aggressive recruiting of those in Asia and Australia "in a way that has never been seen before", said Robin Farley, an industry analyst. "A lot of capital is being invested in high-end play."

The Las Vegas Hilton recently spent $44 million building three suites to house its biggest bettors, and Caesars Palace spent $13 million on two luxury suites.

Mirage Resorts spent about $150 million on art, including paintings by Renoir, Monet, Cezanne, Van Gogh and Picasso, which hangs behind the frosted-glass doors of its high-stakes gambling room. Next year the paintings will move to the Bellagio, a new $1.8 billion hotel and casino catering for big spenders.

A $700 million redevelopment at the MGM Grand will include 30 private villas with a gigantic courtyard under a climate-controlled dome. "Even the air they breathe will be exclusive," Ms Farley said.



Willis: plays hard with huge bets at blackjack tables

Because so many high-stakes gamblers come from Asian countries, industry executives and Wall Street analysts are trying to gauge what effect Asia's economic crisis will have on the casino business. "Will the currency crisis beach the whales?" Ms Farley wrote in a research report.

The president of Caesars Atlantic City, Mark Juliano, said: "Anybody who tells you the economic crisis is not going to have an effect on their business has got to be kidding."

So far, there are few signs that the competition for premium gamblers and whales is slowing. Well-paid marketing executives, or "player development" people, travel the world calling on rich gamblers, offering them expensive gifts, corporate jets to fly them to the casinos, lavish accommodations, huge lines of credit for gambling and discounts on their losses.

At the casinos, 24-hour butlers are at their service, and personal hosts cater to their every need.

Well-known whales include members of Malaysia's Quek family, which has holdings in property, banking and manufacturing; the Saudi arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi, who, *according to a casino executive,* arrives with an entourage including his barber and masseuse; and Sultan Muda Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei, who is said to have spread $250,000 in chips over a roulette table each spin. — *New York Times.*



Police remove a supporter of hostage-taker Tetsuo Itagaki outside the Tokyo exchange PHOTOGRAPH: TOSHIFUMI KITAMURA

Five-hour hostage drama to halt 'big bang' reforms ends in arrest

Extremist stages siege in Tokyo stock exchange

Jonathan Watts in Tokyo

AFTER weeks of being battered by speculators, Japan's financial sector came under fire from a disturbing new source yesterday when an armed rightwing extremist seized a hostage at the Tokyo stock exchange in an attempt to force the government to abandon plans for financial reform.

Tetsuo Itagaki, a former member of one of Japan's many nationalist groups, was arrested on surrendering after a 5½-hour siege. His hostage, a senior finance ministry official, was unharmed.

More than 400 police, many wearing helmets and bullet-*proof vests, surrounded the* stock exchange in Nihombashi Kabutocho, central Tokyo, after Mr Itagaki took the exchange's deputy controller hostage at gunpoint in a 14th floor office. There were also reports of gunfire.

Several television stations interrupted regular programmes to provide live coverage of the events. Trading continued as normal several floors below the siege.

Mr Itagaki, dressed in a business suit, entered the building and demanded a meeting with the finance minister, Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, and a halt to trading on the exchange, one of the largest in the world.

He said he planned to stop the "big bang" deregulation of the country's markets, which he condemned as a United States plot to overrun the financial sector.

The big bang, modelled on Britain's reform of the stock market in 1996, is due to begin in April.

It is designed to bring Japan's ailing financial sector up to world standards, but critics have warned that in *opening up markets Japan* could suffer the same fate as the Wimbledon tennis tournament — a world-class institution dominated by foreign players.

Japan is suffering a period of economic stagnation and several well-established financial institutions have collapsed under the weight of bad loans and speculative pressure.

One result has been rich pickings for foreign, mostly US, companies.

Particularly galling to the many Japanese who have taken great pride in their country's economic successes has been the failure of its oldest brokerage, Yamaichi Securities Co, part of *which is expected to be taken* over by the US giant Merrill Lynch.

According to the police, Mr *Itagaki was arrested in 1985* for throwing a fire bomb in protest at the building of a residential area for US forces in Japan.

He had been a follower of Shusuke Nomura, leader of the ultra-nationalist Kaze No Kai (Wind) organisation, who committed suicide in the offices of a newspaper that ridiculed his extremist views.

The police said Mr Itagaki appeared to have acted alone, but they were investigating *the possibility that he might* have received support from an ultra-nationalist group.

Such extremist groups, often linked to Yakuza crime syndicates, are a noisy and sometimes violent minority. Their trucks, daubed with nationalist slogans and rising-sun flags, are a common sight on the streets of Tokyo, where they drive around with their loudspeakers blaring out accusations that the the government has betrayed traditional values.

In the past such groups were closely linked to senior figures in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, but the weakening of these ties has driven the ultra-nationalists to the extreme fringes of politics.

The headquarters of the Social Democratic Party were firebombed in 1995, the year that the former prime minister Tomiichi Murayama apologised for Japan's war record.

Responding to the stock exchange siege, the finance minister said: "The use of violence to challenge the framework of a law-governed *state must not be tolerated.*"

'Lost decade' fear of broker, page 12

New killing marks downward spiral in Chiapas

Michael McCaughan in San Cristóbal de las Casas

"THE climate of confrontation has ended," Mexico's new interior minister, Francisco Labastida, announced on Monday, hours before an unarmed woman, baby in arms, was shot dead by state police during protests in Ocosingo, Chiapas.

The shooting increased tension in the troubled southern state, already high after the massacre of 45 villagers in the hamlet of Acteal last month and complaints that the Mexican army is violating a truce by harassing villages which sympathise with the Zapatista rebels, the EZLN.

Guadalupe Méndez López was fatally wounded as 6,000 indigenous people marched in protest against the Acteal massacre. They also demanded the withdrawal of the army from Chiapas, the implementation of a 1996 peace accord, and the dismantling of paramilitary groups operating in the region.

Television news showed police firing into the crowd after demonstrators stoned their lorry. Mr Labastida said the 26 policemen present at the killing had been detained, and promised to apply "the full force of the law" against those responsible for López's death.

Her baby and a teenager were also injured, but their condition was described as "stable".

"The government has opted for a military solution in Chiapas," warned Gilberto López y Rivas, spokesman for the parliamentary mediation commission."

The Zapatista spokesman, Subcomandante Marcos, in a communiqué read at the Ocosingo march, denounced the government for "stimulating peace while making war, pretending to talk while treachery is planned".

On Monday the government sacked its peace negotiator with the Zapatista rebels, Emilio Rabasa, a technocrat, will take over from Pedro Joaquín Coldwell, who angered his superiors at the weekend by saying the government had been overtaken by events.

The current stage of the conflict began with the Acteal massacre on December 22, when 45 people were killed by paramilitaries *acting on* orders from local government leaders and using state police weapons.

The army immediately implemented a 1996 law permitting troops to enter and search villages at will, despite a prior law ordering troops to stay out of Chiapas villages. The army has focused exclusively on Zapatista strongholds, with 44 incursions into 30 rebel villages since January 1.

In the aftermath of Monday's killing, the army *moved even more troops* into the region, "to prevent further bloodshed", and pledged to continue their search for weapons.

In a bid to regain the initiative, the government-linked human rights commission CNDH, the health minister, Juan Ramón de la Fuente, and the new governor, Roberto Albores Guillén, visited Zapatista refugees in the Chenalhó area last weekend. Both Mr de la Fuente and Mr Guillén replaced officials sacked after the Acteal massacre.

"We need credibility right now," Mr de la Fuente told reporters as he attended to a sick child in a *refugee camp, his official* photographer capturing the moment.

On the morning of their visit, army and police roadblocks disappeared, to be replaced by troops with armbands saying "Social work", who dug latrines and gave haircuts to locals.

The government delegation gained entry to several villages but locals refused to accept aid, save for emergency medical help for the 8,000 refugees.

SA courts asked to rule on amnesty for ANC leaders

From David Beresford in Johannesburg

SOUTH AFRICA'S truth commission is turning to the courts to resolve a dispute *over whether it was justified* in granting amnesty to 37 ANC leaders. It is asking for a declaratory order on its decision, which its critics say shows a lack of even-handedness.

The commission chairman, Desmond Tutu, said it had agreed unanimously to take the issue to the high court.

Opposition parties have criticised its granting ANC leaders, including its new president Thabo Mbeki, a blanket amnesty without *specifying the offences in* which they were involved.

Pointing out that the law governing the commission gives its amnesty committee autonomy, Bishop Tutu said: "The only option we ... have in this matter is to act as we have done and go to court."

His deputy, Alex Boraine, said the commission stood by its decision to grant amnesty to Bishop Tutu's son, Trevor, for a bomb threat at East London airport in 1989, which earned him a three-and-a-half-year prison sentence, which he started serving last year. Trevor Tutu claimed that the *threat aided the liberation* struggle by helping make South Africa ungovernable.

The **Guardian**
Wednesday January 14 1998
Edition Number 47071
119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER
Fax No. 0171-837 4530
E-mail: letters@guardian.co.uk
Website: http://www.guardian.co.uk

Choking on the urban air

Has John Prescott got the nerve to make it clean?

THE AIR we breathe is our most precious possession, yet it can no longer be taken for granted. Yesterday's report from the Department of Health is the first to attempt to quantify the effects of short-term air pollution, but its findings only confirm our worst fears. Many thousands of people may die earlier each year, or be admitted to hospital, as a result of exposure to pollution which is largely the result of high traffic levels. Not for them the Shakespearian pleasure of scenting the morning air, but the thoroughly modern pain of gagging on a cocktail of particulates and nitrogen dioxide.

Launching the report, the Government's chief medical officer did his best to avoid striking an alarmist note — to the point of conveying a no doubt unintentional note of callousness. Sir Kenneth Calman wished to stress, he said, that air pollution in the UK was unlikely to have any short-term effects on *healthy individuals* (our emphasis). "The people most likely to be affected by air pollution," he explained, "are those who are already vulnerable — the frail, and those who are very ill."

So that's all right then. Or is it? The 12,000-24,000 people whose deaths may, in the preferred phrase, be "brought forward" by air pollution, might be expected to die anyhow in "as little as a few days", or perhaps "over a somewhat longer period." As an actuarial observation it may make perfect sense. But no community can regard it as an acceptable excuse for letting the old and sick continue to be poisoned by the emissions of cars driven in the main by those who are younger or better off. For let us make no mistake: those most at risk are also those who are condemned by age or poverty to live near congested roads, to cross them on foot, and to shop on their pavements. It is in no way surprising that roadsides in the London Borough of Camden should register one of the highest scores for the number of days when air pollutants exceed the government health standard, or that Glasgow should come in the same league. Humanity aside, there must be a considerable economic and social cost from the 14,000-to-24,000 vulnerable people who may be admitted to hospital for the same reason — without actually dying as a result.

The DoH is initiating more research to form a better assessment of the implications of these new findings. Yesterday the British Medical Association suggested bluntly that the main implication is already well known. Curbing road traffic levels — which in London contribute up to 80 per cent of all emissions — is essential to protect the nation's health. The Government should seize the opportunity created by the EU presidency to introduce practical steps to curb traffic levels and vehicle emissions. This would result in important health gains beyond those identified in the report — such as cutting deaths and injury from traffic accidents, and reducing stress and disturbed sleep patterns associated with traffic noise. For good measure increased exercise — by encouraging people to walk and cycle — can "improve physical health, protect against heart disease and osteoporosis and combat depression."

Once again the diagnosis is clear: the question is whether the Government has the nerve to write a proper prescription in its forthcoming white paper. The items to be specified are familiar enough: specific targets for traffic reduction, stringent limits on emissions, better public transport and a shift from road freight to rail. Plus the one measure which apart from reducing pollution would do more than anything else to re-set the public agenda: abolition of concessions for company cars. Over to you, John Prescott.

Not so heavenly Gates

Microsoft is a bit too powerful for its own good

THE ROW between Bill Gates, his competitors and the anti-trust authorities is looking like one of those computer games in which the participants endlessly zap each other. Yesterday, Japan's Fair Trade Commission joined in with a raid on Microsoft's Tokyo headquarters. This happened shortly before the reopening of a court case in the US between Microsoft and the US Justice Department over alleged abuse of market power. To be attacked by the world's two largest economies simultaneously ought to make even Bill Gates think twice. At issue is the deceptively trite problem whether Microsoft can insist on computer manufacturers bundling its Internet "browser" as a free addition to its operating system which is installed in 85 per cent of the world's personal computers. Microsoft argues that this is just another product improvement. Moreover, unlike the oil cartels of the 1930s, Microsoft can't be accused of price fixing because its browser is given away free. All the US Justice department is doing, it is *claimed, is to stifle innovation* by one of America's most successful companies.

This is true, but only half of the picture. If Microsoft was one of several companies with similar market shares offering products for nothing it wouldn't be such a worry. It is of concern precisely because Microsoft's operating system has an 85 per cent monopoly. Suppose one company generated 85 per cent of the world's electricity and insisted that customers accepted free electric light bulbs and sockets. The customer would be getting a good deal but at the expense of shutting out the competition. No other company could easily make light bulbs so good that customers would buy them in preference to those that came free. And nothing comes for nothing. Free light bulbs raises the suspicion that they are financed from monopolistic electricity prices.

Microsoft is able to give browsers away free because it makes a a startling 30 per cent return on sales of its operating system and other software like its spreadsheet and word processor (which, surprise, surprise, also have around 85 per cent of their market). This makes it almost impossible for new companies to compete. Who would invest in developing a new browser when Microsoft is bundling it in free with its own operating system? No wonder Netscape, the only other big manufacturer of browsers, has just reported a sharp profits fall. The obvious solution is to divide Microsoft into two independent companies — one making its operating system and the other making software which could then compete on equal terms with software produced by other companies. Microsoft has been brilliantly sucessful within the context of intense competition. It would be a mistake if was allowed to smother the very competitive forces that have pushed the US to pre-eminence in the field of information technology.

Smoking out the real killers

The EU should aim its guns at cigarettes not alcohol

AFTER tobacco, an alcohol ban on sports sponsorship looms. Unbelievably, the French are already lobbying the European Union to follow their practice of banning all alcohol sponsorship of sports and cultural events. Sweden is on side and other states with severe alcohol problems are listening sympathetically. Budweiser, which is an official sponsor of this year's World Cup, has been forced by the French law to remove all its pitch-side promotion. A key official within the European Union has warned sports bodies that unless they become better organised and start making noises in Brussels, they could find the French blanket ban spreading across member states leading to a Union-wide ban on harmonisation grounds. There is already a consultative document analysing the degree to which the EU has achieved a single market in sponsorship, advertising, sales promotion and PR.

Would this be a good move? Alcohol certainly causes far more havoc than soft or hard drugs. It wreaks far more damage to physical health, prompts much more violent crime, and leads to far more working days lost through absenteeism. Alcohol kills 35,000 a year but tobacco's UK toll now reaches 120,000. Yet there are two vital differences between the substances: unlike tobacco, alcohol only kills when misused; and even more important, used in moderation alcohol can prolong life rather than shorten it. We salute the EU for its tobacco advertising ban. Cigarettes have no benefits. They cause immense pain and suffering. As our ICM poll demonstrated yesterday, the public would like to see even tighter restrictions on smoking in public. But safe consumption limits for alcohol were only recently raised. We need to stop alcohol abuse but blanket advertising bans are not the answer.



Letters to the Editor

A sorry state of affairs

SURELY it is time the British Government apologised for its part in the prison-camp atrocities inflicted by the Japanese on British PoWs through its failure properly to defend its Far East outposts (Leader, January 13).

The case of Hong Kong is not in doubt; in effect, the peacetime garrison was abandoned to its fate. In January 1941, Churchill told Ismay that Hong Kong was a lost cause. If attacked by the Japanese, it could not be successfully defended. Once captured, it could not be relieved. To reinforce the garrison would be to throw good troops after bad. It is clear from propaganda issued to the garrison that the fate of those who became Japanese PoWs was known.

To be fair to Churchill, he said that there should be an inquiry after the war ended. Such an inquiry never took place; and the British Government, like its Japanese counterpart, also appears to be waiting for the whole issue to die a natural death.
Drummond Hunter.
17 Warriston Crescent,
Edinburgh FH3 5LB.

HOW do you reimburse the tens of thousands of women and children, not incarcerated but incinerated at Hiroshima and Nagasaki? Could that be in the back of the Japanese prime minister's mind when his condolences went to "all who suffered in the second world war."
Sam da Vinci.
88 Boileau Road,
London W5 3AJ.

Affluence or ignorance

COULD you please tell Harriet Harman that we already have an affluence test (Labour to end welfare taboos, January 12): it is called income tax assessment. The trick is to make it efficient and fair, when it would be able to deal automatically with all aspects of apparent excess benefit or entitlement payments, without affecting net income levels at the bottom end. Popular measures, such as outlawing the murky boundary between tax avoidance and evasion, the use of offshore havens, and increasing the rates for high earners, would even generate enough income for the state to increase benefits and entitlements. What's more, none of the necessary measures require major consultation or debate, or even major legislation. With some clever management, there might even be a bit left over to properly fund the NHS.
I Milne.
Church Street,
Matlock, Derby DE4 3BZ.

THE proposed affluence test, in other words means-testing, on the present universal basic state pension is a classic example of divide and rule. It would ultimately mean the end of the state pension.

We pay national insurance contributions and tax during our working lives expecting to receive a fair state pension when reaching retirement age, still paying income tax if reaching the appropriate income. That is fair, accepted by the great majority of contributors and essential if the Government is to honour the pledge that the state pension will be the foundation of retirement income.

Once the precedent is set, would an affluence test be applied to private pensions, stakeholder pensions, company pensions, the inflated pensions which MPs recently awarded themselves (and we pay for), or, indeed, any other insurance settlement?
Clifford Fuller.
Gloucestershire
Pensioners Forum,
Gloucester GL1 2BB.

BENEFITS which are not means-tested are claimed by almost everyone who is entitled to them. By contrast, from Elizabeth I's Poor Law onwards, there has never been a benefit with a means-test attached which has been claimed by anywhere near everybody who might qualify. So, although the theory may be to prevent those who do not "need" the benefit from getting it, the practical effect will be to take away benefit from a significant number of people who need it as well.

Means-tested benefits are also more complicated, and so cost more to administer. A smaller proportion of money, per pound of benefit, is spent administering retirement pensions and child benefits than any other benefits (including occupational pensions and private insurance schemes). A better, and more efficient system, is to increase taxes at the upper income range to tax back the money from those who do not "need" it.
Keith Williams.
2 Jarman Avenue,
Wrexham, Clwyd LL13 7AT.

WHILST we would welcome moves to include women earning less than £62 a week in statutory maternity payment (SMP), we would point out that there is a ceiling on SMP, as those women who have been employed for 26 weeks receive 90 per cent of their average weekly wages for the first six weeks and then the princely flat-rate sum of £55.70 for the next 12 weeks. To suggest that there are many women earning in excess of £20,000 a week to get £18,000 for six weeks from the DSS is a spurious argument.
Jane Hinchliffe.
Centre for the Unemployed,
448 Stratford Road,
Birmingham B11 4AE.

I AM just old enough to remember the Beveridge Report and the enthusiasm with which it was received. What people liked was the idea of entitlement and the reduction of the need for means-testing. Means-testing reduced independence by allowing others to criticise the way of life adopted by the claimant, and often to demand changes. Making an adjustment to income tax, on the other hand, was a simple extension of what was already done and ensured that only the affluent were affected.
Stella Meldrum.
4 Essex Road,
Watford WD1 3EP.

In defence of Muslim schools

YASMIN Alibhai-Brown (No Muslim school for me, thanks, January 13) assumes that children attending our schools live in a vacuum with no opportunity for "friendships and mutual respect" with others as they "get more or less militant" (what does that mean?). She ignores inter-action with neighbours and the media, and discounts the fact that most Muslim schools have non-Muslim staff. At least two have non-Muslim pupils.

Muslim community schools have been around for almost 20 years and there are many ex-pupils successfully integrated in society. Medical students, PhDs and teachers include in their ranks confident and responsible young adults who have benefited from their Muslim school education. The self-esteem this has given them makes it easy for them to make their mark because they aren't confused about who and what they are.

Ms Alibhai-Brown argues that the sort of prejudice levelled against Muslims "would be unthinkable for Jews and blacks". Both Jews and blacks have legal protection against racial prejudice, unlike Muslims. Integration should not lead to the disintegration of a minority's identity, and the success of Jews at every level of society is testimony to the value of a strong social infrastructure of which state-funded schools are a vital part.
Ibrahim Hewitt.
Development Officer,
Assoc of Muslim Schools.
88 Sparkenhoe Street,
Leicester LE2 0TA.

IT takes a huge leap of logic for Roy Hattersley (Endpiece, January 12) to reach the conclusion that state-funding of Muslim schools will undermine Islamic extremists. Surely, separating Muslim, Jewish and Christian children in religious schools from their peers (including Hindus and Sikhs) can cause nothing but division and misunderstanding in society, as Northern Ireland will testify.

Surely, a better way forward is to withdraw funding from all religious schools, say over 10 years. Stop the separatism and allow children to mix freely with each other in their formative years. Only in this way can there be any hope of easing hostilities between races and religions.
K Porteous Wood.
General Secretary,
National Secular Society,
47 Theobald's Road,
London WC1X 8SP.

Yiddish truth

YOUR report on the tribunal case of Dr Dovid Katz and the Oxford Institute for Yiddish Studies (Jewish scholar 'abused by his ex-lover' drops dismissal claim, January 6) repeated his vicious accusations against me — all completely unproven and undefended — at some length. Two one-line denials were all that was reported on my behalf.

You should note that Dr Katz withdrew all his claims before I had a chance to be heard or to cross-examine him. I have worked for nearly a decade in furthering the Yiddish cause and nobody who knows me would believe that I am a racist. The accusations of racism were withdrawn by Dr Katz voluntarily; they were not dismissed on a technicality of contract law.
Marie Wright.
Oxford Institute for Yiddish Studies, Oxford OX1 3EX.



Maps for life

DAVID Blunkett's plans to reduce the national curriculum requirements for primary geography (Report, January 10) should fill us with dismay. The key skills used — to observe, describe and analyse human and physical processes around the world — can only enhance the development of pupils' literacy and numerical skills. Primary geography plays a vital role in preparing pupils for their future in an increasingly interdependent world.

The many letters we receive every day, from primary pupils requesting further information for their studies of the wider world, stand as testament to the powerful role of geography in enthusing pupils about their work. Surely, we should be harnessing that power, not throwing it away.
Steve Brace.
ActionAid,
Macdonald Road,
London N19 5PG.

Postscript

IF the Unionists are to be given reassurances on the future of the Union (New push for peace delights Unionists, January 13), then it is time for the Government to address the South Armagh Question, ie why should the people of Crossmaglen be compelled to remain British because the people of Ballymena wish to remain British?
Michael Sargent.
Pentland Road,
Aylesbury, Bucks HP21.

INSTEAD of a garden as a memorial to Diana (Report, January 13) why not commission a few yachts for holidays for single parents (and their children, of course)?
Pauline Hammerton.
15 Westminster Avenue,
Manchester M16 0AN.

We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear

Ah, yes, we remember it all too well

SEVEN years ago, we encouraged our son to seek help for his severe depression from an apparently respected therapy centre (Row over psychiatrists who destroy lives, January 12). In a little over a year, his contented childhood was re-interpreted with devastating results, because he came to believe that his father and myself had sexually abused him over many years, memories of which he was persuaded he had "repressed".

Our letters of protest to the organisation concerned have met with a bland refusal to consider our complaints. Letters to the president of the Royal College of Psychiatrists have been ignored.

It is ironical that, in this age of consumer protection, we have watchdogs to guard against dodgy financial advisors, contaminated food or dangerous household appliances, but there is still no legal requirement that protects us from false ideologies that result in the destruction of happy childhood memories, threaten families, and do untold damage to the reputations of people with more suggestible friends than we are fortunate enough to have.
Name and address supplied.

AS survivors of child sexual abuse, it is hard enough coming to terms with our abuse without having to deal with the ill-informed, one-sided opinions which your article presented as fact. By denying the truth of our experiences, the report, upon which your article so freely drew, has added to the pain we already have to live with. It is not the so-called "false memory syndrome" which is the real issue here, but society's difficulty in accepting the prevalence and consequences of child sexual abuse.
Clare Shaw.
The Liverpool Survivors.
c/o The Umbrella Centre.
Address supplied.

TO CLARIFY the references to me in your report, I wish to point out that, when telephoned by your reporter, I agreed that the Royal College of Psychiatrists' guidelines on good practice were critical of the use of certain techniques and recommended that they should no longer be employed. I indicated that the college could not prohibit the use of such techniques and that, if a complaint was made about unprofessional practice, it would be dealt with by the GMC, not the college. The guidelines, prepared by the working group which I chaired, were not watered down. I agreed that therapists, who had used the techniques which we criticised, would be well advised to review their past cases.

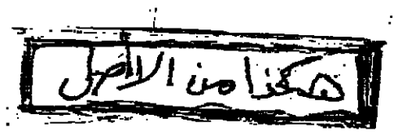
Psychiatrists are anxious to keep the public informed and eager to support the press in this role. But this process is not helped by reporters who are unwilling to accept refusal to agree to an interview on their terms, ignore the reasons for this refusal and the offer of alternative opportunities, and print an inaccurate account of the subject.
Prof Sydney Brandon.
19 Holmfield Road,
Leicester LE2 1SD.

A Country Diary

TAMAR VALLEY: Below Watergate, the rushing millstream dominates sound as water foams white across its slatey bed. A mile upstream, around its source in splashy Bullens, sodden grass-fields, with rutted, poached gateways are shut up for winter, empty of bullocks, now in covered yards nearer home. Within a mile, the stream is bridged by four minor roads, water gushing through narrow stone tunnels, mossy walls topped with granite slabs beneath the tarmac. Radland Mill, at the junction of two racing streams, is the focus for a network of narrow, stoggy paths, littered with broken twigs and grey-/green lichen blown off trees in the new year gales.

In the last century, before moving to Cotehele Mill, grandfather Langsford's grandfather was miller here, grinding local farmers' corn, transported in panniers by donkeys. Now the millponds and leats are hardly discernible, silted up, overgrown and part of the wood. Old cottages are ruins, sprouting trees, gloomy beneath sprawling laurel trunks and straggling box bushes, once neatly trimmed hedges. The mill, minus its waterwheel, is an isolated dwelling and all that remains of the neighbouring smallholding are a few sheds and the restored bee-bole house. Little terraced fields and gardens, once intensively cultivated by the Snell family, have reverted to woodland, heart's-tongue ferns glossy under a thicket of hazel, oak and blackthorn. By Nannie Rowe's wood, the stream joins the more powerful Morden stream and, within a mile, it dashes past Cotehele Mill, now a National Trust museum. Soon the turbulent water slackens, ponded back by high tide at Cotehele quay, where the Tamar is brown with run-off and earth washed down from arable fields. Lumps of floating driftwood are temporarily stilled and green water has flooded up the mill tributary, past reed beds into the tangled wooded swamp beyond.

VIRGINIA SPIERS



Diary

Matthew Norman

IN a 20-year-old copy of Isis, the Oxford University newspaper, we find an intriguing article. Nicholas Lowton writes with spirit about he St John's Mummers production of "Deja Revue" at Balliol's Lindsay Rooms, a *tour de force* of comic japery he describes as "realy quite a remarkable achievement". Special praise is lavished upon one budding satirist. "The guiding lights behind the whole thing were Tony Blair and Andy Burn," he reports, "who wrote most of the stuff and took part in most of the sketches, Blair being particularly good in his more extrovert almost slapstick roles." Even then, it seems *that MrTony was besotted* with the concept of modernity, the programme heralding the show as "an irreverent view of several aspects of modern society reflecting *especially the predominant* position of the medium of television at the present time". Neatly put. Mr Tony was also precocious, it appears, in understanding the *value of having partisan* chums in the press. "The songs were written by Tony Blair," writes this warm and generous reviewer, and the man who put those *songs to music.*

FROM the PM in Oxford to his press chief in Cambridge. In the Forum classic Sex At Cambridge, *Alastair Campbell* has confessed to using pictures of Anna Ford to facilitate manual relief when sudden things look up. "Geville and Caius do a very nice line *in dark*-haired Colombians," he writes. "I fell for one such person in my final year." After a month's "expensive and elaborate courtship" delivers *nothing, he changes* tactics. "Much against my nature," — how true — "I eventually lied, and agreed to father her children in Colombia, but only if . . ." can you guess it? ". . . *she would* fill a Durex Featherlite on my penis." Of course. "As he did so the talk was of engagement rings and dowries." A few months later, it was with some guilt that I wrote to tell her that my application for a visa had been turned down". The sweetness.

MAKING a welcome comeback as headline act in that ever popular feature Things To Take Single Mothers' Minds Off Those Benefit Cuts is Harriet Harman, who tops a performance poll of government departments. The Treasury scores a decent 72 per cent, while Chris Smith's Culture, Media and Sport is runner up (82.6). The easy winner, with a perfect 100 per cent, is Social Security. "There are simply no negative points in their initiatives," says the report, by the Adam Smith Institute.

TERROR stalks the offices of the Independent. Its name is Andrew Neil. With Andy Marr's departure as editor seemingly imminent, staff are petrified by rumours that the dashing boulevar*dier — Repton, the Sor*bonne and the University of Tramp (formerly Tramp Polytechnic) — may move to buy the paper, on behalf of the Barclay Brothers, and install himself as editor-in-chief. "What," says Andrew, "having been in the Premiership," — the European, that must be, and the Scotsman — "you would have me demoted to Division Three?" So it's completely untrue then? "I would use a stronger adjective," he replies, reaching for his Roget's. "Totally, entirely, definitely false." And you wouldn't like to use the Indie as a platform for having a go at Rupert Murdoch's Times? "No, no," says Andrew, letting his fabled hatred of self-aggrandisement off the leash, "I own papers now, I don't edit them. Ha, ha, ha."

IN Cambodia, Nou Meas has paid a heavy price for a show of spousal *tendresse.* When he crept up and tickled his wife Siek Phan from behind while she was clopping firewood, the missus instinctively turned and flung her axe towards him. Mr Meas, FHM magazine reports, was decapitated. After a brief visit to the cells, his widow was released having persuaded officers that it was an accident. "I didn't mean it," she told police. "It's just that I hate being tickled."



Different drugs could really turn us on

Commentary

Jonathan Freedland

THOSE with time on *their hands at the* weekend may just have stumbled across Junior, a middling comedy starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. No cinema classic, it tells *the unlikely story of scientist* Arnie (!) and an experiment which culminates in his own pregnancy. As he checks into the maternity ward, a stunned head doc wonders *how the strapping muscle*man could possibly be a mum. Arnie helpfully explains that he's not a man at all — but an East German woman athlete who's been pumped full of illegal, hormone-altering drugs.

It's worth a chuckle, in the way those pix of "women" discus-throwers from Dresden and lifters from Leipzig *always were. But now we* know: it was no joke. Heidi Kreiger, once a European champion shot-putter, has just presented herself to the world as Andreas. Surrendering to the process which has given her facial hair and an Adam's apple, she has decided to become a he — and have a sex-change. Now a man, Andreas Kreiger plans to sue the trainers who forcefed him anabolic steroids chock-full of male hormones. "I trusted them, but they took advantage of me," he says.

All this has acquired an *extra relevance* with the controversy now bubbling away at the world swimming championships in Perth. Australian customs officials rifled through the usual haul of B & *H and Johnnie Walker to dis*cover 13 vials of growth hormone in the luggage of Yuan Yuan, a leading member of the Chinese women's team. She's been sent home in dis*grace to face a four-year sus*pension and the full wrath of the People's Republic, but the talk in Australia is of a further drugs haul, casting a pall over the rest of the squad.

The automatic response is to condemn the Chinese, like the East Germans before them, as a bunch of scheming commie cheats. British fans have a particular gripe, many *of them believing that ath*letes bearing our own red, white and blue were robbed of gold, silver and bronze by rivals who'd made one too many trips to the chemist.

But there is another way of looking at the whole business, one with a significance that stretches far beyond the terrain of drugs and sport. For it touches on the much broader question of the human relationship with the body.

The new thinking has come from science writer Oliver Morton, who argues that drugs should take up their *rightful place in physical* competition. Why, he asks, should athletes be denied the pharmaceutical help the rest of us turn to routinely? If we get anaemic, we get drugs to *help boost our blood. Why* can't sprinters use pills to boost their speed?

Morton says the Athens Olympics of 2004 should be the last to be drug-free. After *that the Games should be* split: an Open Olympics where competitors can use all the help-in-tablet-form they want and, for nostalgists, an Olympics Classic, where the old *rules apply*: In *just a few* years, predicts Morton, world records will tumble in the drug-takers' games — with the Classic event reduced to a Zimmer-frame derby.

The audience for the Open will be enormous, as people clamour to see man's potential taken to its limit. As science advances, the medal-winners will be performing a service for all humanity, "pushing out the boundaries of bio-medicine". Who knows, wonders Morton, perhaps the drugs companies will sponsor *the event, like the car compa*nies who assemble motor-racing teams. That would give them a strong incentive for avoiding the Frankenstein experience of East Germany: Heidi/Andreas Kreiger is not the kind of celebrity most pharmaceutical giants want endorsing their products.

It sounds outlandish, but Oliver Morton might be on to something. The website set up to accompany Channel 4's Things To Come series, where Morton first aired his argument, has recorded more votes in favour of his idea than for any other. It seems

> Noel Gallagher has spoken of chemical assistance. Yet he does not face a four-year ban from showbusiness

people — especially the *younger*, libertarian types who inhabit the Web — see the glaring contradiction in our current attitudes to drugs and admire Morton for his consistency.

This goes much further than the old whine about cannabis and cocaine being banned, while alcohol and tobacco are allowed. It points out the absurdity of asking *doctors freely to dispense* antibiotics for a bug or Prozac for depression — drugs which enable people to run the race of life — while punishing athletes who want the same kind of push.

It raises, too, the question of why we treat the body so differently from the mind. Plenty of artists and writers have told how drugs have expanded their imagination, from Coleridge to Kerouac, William Burroughs to Irvine Welsh.

The Beatles made no secret of their *inspiration, and Noel* Gallagher has spoken only warmly of chemical assistance. Yet Gallagher does not face a four-year ban from showbusiness for taking performance-enhancing drugs, but an invitation to drinks with the PM.

Even journalism is infected with this same inconsistency. It has become fashionable in some quarters for reporters to describe experiences through a hallucinogenic haze, or at least to talk about the after-effects of a rough night with *Charlie* — yet there are few calls for newspapers to promise every word they print is "drug-free". Writer Will Self, a one-man drug Olympics, goes from strength to strength.

We ought to sort out this confusion soon. Much of the opposition to genetic research — altering DNA to tweeze out genes which might lead to cystic fibrosis or breast cancer — comes from the same aversion to tampering with the body. A similar "yuk" factor greeted the first organ transplants, until familiarity made them an accepted part of medical life. We need to get beyond the yuk — to realise we alter our bodies, and our minds, all the time. Oliver Morton's idea is unlikely to fly, and perhaps it never should. But in the competition for fresh-thinking, he deserves a gold medal.

Hague's plans could create a rightwing rump



Ian Aitken

PERHAPS it is just the sentimentality which sometimes accompanies advancing years, but I can't help feeling a certain liking for young William Hague. There is something irresistible about a 36-year-old party leader who has the cheek to dismiss Kenneth Clarke, his party's biggest hitter by miles, as a "has-been".

The last party leader to possess that sort of chutzpah was Harold Wilson, a man to whom Hague has been repeatedly compared ever since his excruciatingly embarrassing entry into politics at the age of 16. But not even Wilson had the impertinence to label the Gaitskellite old guard he had defeated as has-beens. Well, not in public anyway.

Now, however, this daring young man has embarked on another and much more spectacular enterprise than simply slagging off the Tory grandees. He intends to "democratise" his party's rule book so as to make certain that old-style Tories like Ken Clarke, not to mention Ted Heath and Geoffrey Howe, never reach the top again. That, at any rate, is the probable consequence of Hague's plan to hand the election of future Conservative leaders over to a ballot of the party's rank and file. So we must assume that it was Hague's purpose in the first place.

The move gets its first test today, when the depleted band of Tory MPs who survived last May's electoral white-out are due to return their ballot papers after voting on whether to go ahead with wholesale reform. Such is the angry mood in the party's *grassroots that few people* expect the MPs to vote for the status quo, under which they exercise exclusive control over the choice of leader. The row would just be too spectacular.

BUT what is extraordinary about Hague's initiative is that it has been sprung on his party with so little preliminary discussion. True, it can be argued that young William is simply following Tony Bair's reforming zeal. But with the exception of the ballot to throw out Clause 4 of Labour's constitution — which changed the party's ideology, not its structure — Blair's reforms were preceded by a lengthy internal debate stretching back to the leadership of John Smith. No one was taken by surprise.

Moreover, there is a fundamental difference between trying to reform Labour and attempting to do the same to the Tory party. For the essence of the Labour Party is that it was always a bottom-up party, in which power — at least in theory — travelled upwards from the conference floor.

The Tories, by contrast, have always been a top-down party; its rank and file were simply welded on to the existing Westminster organisation when universal *suffrage* created the need for envelope-stuffers in the constituencies.

Now, it is quite proper to argue that this sort of patrician approach to political organisation is a scandalous anachronism, and cries out for reform. But before the Tories act on that view, they would do well to pause long enough to consider the consequences of trying to turn an essentially undemocratic but historically successful organisation into a model of Athenian democracy. The truth is that any truly radical reforms would completely change the nature of the Conservative Party, and could end by making it permanently unelectable, by threatening to turn it into a crude rightwing organisation reflecting the opinions of the floor of the party conference.

TRUE, Mrs Thatcher did exactly that during her spell as leader, but without the stimulus of any democratic reforms. It was an accident of history; William Hague's plan would institutionalise it.

The mere existence of such a party hovering on the fringes of a Lib-Labbish parliament would give legitimacy to the kind of rightwing populism we have so far been spared in this country. That it would have little hope of securing office, either by election or as part of a coalition, would simply reinforce its stridency.

Many loyal Conservatives will probably see this as far-fetched, pointing out that opinion polls last summer put Ken Clarke ahead of Hague as *the grassroots' choice to suc*ceed John Major.

But the present state of the Conservative Party would have seemed just as far-fetched only a few years ago, *and the rank and file's prefer*ence for Clarke merely reflected their attachment to familiar faces.

Alas, familiarity is a fast-wasting asset in a party so visibly on the skids.

It may not be an easy slogan to sell in these un-deferential times, but what the top people's party needs now is a bit less democracy, not more. After all, look who they landed themselves with when they first introduced the ballot box in parliament for choosing their leaders: the Grocer, the Iron Lady and the Grey Man. One scarcely dares guess who they'll get under one-member-one-vote.

In view of the 'millions' Earl Spencer is spending to facilitate viewing of the grave of Diana, Princess of Wales, and the likely subsequent revenue, **Ruaridh Nicoll** calls on him to open the books

The dividend of Diana

THE collective grief, some say mass hysteria, which drove vast numbers of people to the gates of palaces, churches and embassies following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, continues, it seems, unabated.

Chancellor Gordon Brown, who is leading a committee looking at proposals for a permanent memorial to the princess, has received 10,000 ideas from the public. Meanwhile Earl Spencer has sold 126,200 tickets, masquerading as posh invitations, to the family home of Althorp.

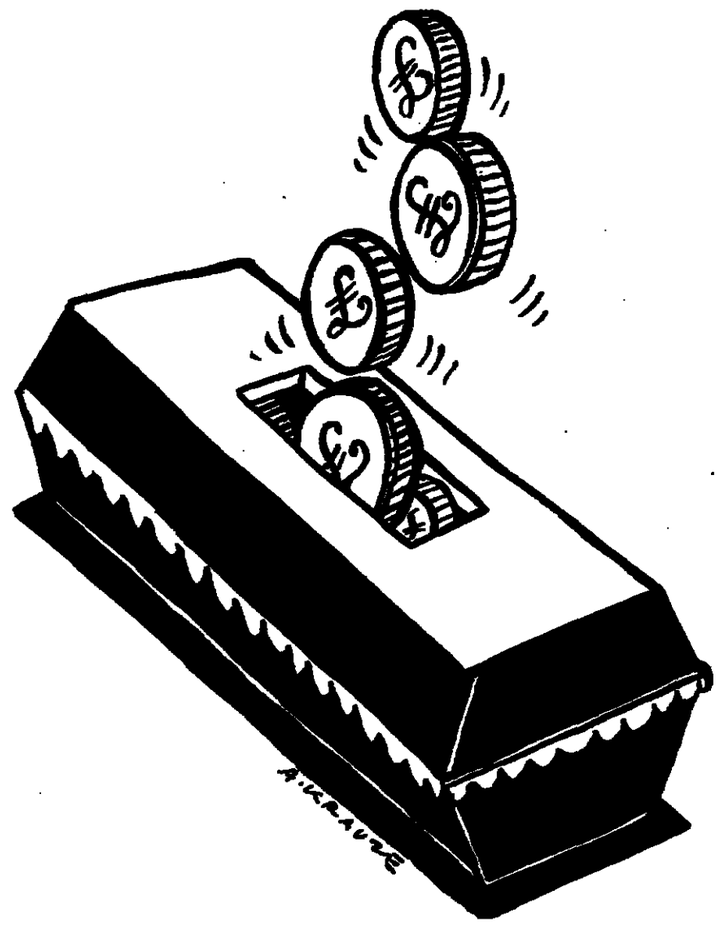
The earl's invitations tell the visitors that on a specified day between July 1 and August 30 he will be At Home. Pitch up and have a tour of the house where both the earl and his sister spent miserable childhoods, see the newly converted stables housing some of the icon's top frocks, and wander up to the Oval island to look across the water at her last resting place.

Some might think the Earl's plans are in less than perfect taste. While Brown's favourite idea of a memorial garden at Kensington Palace will cost £10 million, raised through public or lottery funds, Althorp's revamp, paid for by the earl, will cost "millions". How many he won't tell us.

The earl is charging royally: £9.50 for adults, £7 for old folks, £5 for children, and if anyone in the party is disabled then they get in free. It should be a nice day out; a day of reflection amid the beautiful grounds of the aristocracy.

Bur don't count on actually seeing the earl "At Home". His home is Cape Town, the city where he was last seen defending his cash from the hands of a soon-to-be ex-wife who we were told had a "12-step approach to life". She got what she wanted despite his claims to (relative) poverty.

For the two months of the year the earl plans to give guests access to Althorp, he should take anything between £760,000 and £1,444,000. If profits are made, which is unlikely in the first year given the "millions" he plans to spend, they will end up in Diana's memorial fund.



We have no idea of the accounting behind the project's "costs". The earl's spokeswoman said a rough budget had been drawn up but she has not seen it and nor would we. Would the earl take a fee? She responded with distaste at the spirit of the question but did not answer. What it seems is needed here is trust. And who better to trust than a member of our aristocracy who, despite his behaviour in private, was raised at Eton and is the brother of the mother of our future king?

It seems that little things like his pledge at the funeral to "continue the imaginative and loving way" Diana had steered her children, should *not grate* against the knowledge of his own home life, that Pyrrhic fury his own children saw in their parents' doomed marriage.

It seems we should rejoice *that Althorp, which was once* losing £450,000 a year, will now be safe in perpetuity. No doubt the earl is confident that an end to the financial problems that have plagued him since he inherited the estate would be exactly what his late sister would have wanted — that every cloud should indeed have a silver lining.

It must have been irritating, then, that the royal-watcher Harold Brooks-Baker should say last week that clearer accounting is necessary in case an impression of profiteering take root among the more cynical.

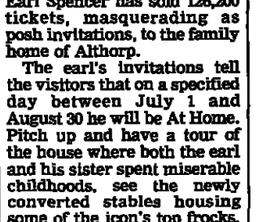
Brown's national monument will be costed openly, allowing the country a feeling of inclusion, of participation in the building of a memorial to someone much of the world mourned. In Spencer's case, on the other hand, we are required quietly to accept that aristocracy is a synonym for honour.

Spencer may be able to justify his secrecy to himself: after all he knows his own dignity, his own honour. Unfortunately the dignity and honour which the rest of us see is that of a man who sneered, "It couldn't have happened to a nicer man" to a photographer who fell while snapping the earl on his way to terminate a marriage he had first informed his wife was over, from the comfort of his bath.

Any respect the Earl earned for his famous tribute in Westminster Cathedral has crumbled for many people in the wake of his divorce.

Widespread confidence in the man will return only if details of Diana's memorial financing are laid bare.

Massive betrayal, massive mistake



Malcolm Chisholm

He destroyed his infant political career as a Scottish Office minister, by resigning over lone parent benefits. The MP for Edinburgh N & Leith beseeches the Prime Minister to change his mind as Tony Blair ignores the parliamentary revolt, and prepares to launch a series of modernising welfare "road shows" this week

THE Government has made four attempts, each one more ridiculous than the last, to justify its unjustifiable cuts to lone parent benefits. Now it's time to stop digging and jump out of the hole.

Firstly, there were public expenditure limits. This had some logic — except that £60 million to stop the cuts next year could easily be accommodated within the overall totals.

Secondly, there was welfare-to-work. That excuse had plausibility in the abstract until some thought was given to how it would all work out in practice. Most starkly, why should a lone parent move from welfare into insecure work after April, knowing that she or he must return to benefit at a reduced rate when the work comes to an end?

Thirdly, some muted voices were heard claiming that lone parents don't need the "extra" money. Fortunately, they fell silent over the festive period and every relevant study and statistic should keep them that way. I will soon be launching some more research done in my own constituency which shows how lone parent families are already going short of food.

The final throw was "modernisation of the welfare state". We all support that, but cutting lone parent benefits has nothing whatsoever to do with modernisation of the welfare state. Indeed the cuts are a massive betrayal of the principles we have set ourselves for modernisation, namely support for welfare-to-work and adequate provision for those in genuine need.

It is time for the Government to admit it has made a *massive mistake* which is absolutely counterproductive from the point of view of welfare-to-work and which will drive some of the poorest families in society into even deeper poverty.

In addition, untold damage has been done to the Government's reputation and credibility. Firstly, we have lost the trust of the British people for much-needed reform of the welfare state. The rhetoric about supporting welfare-to-work and providing for those in genuine need is absolutely right, but we are no longer trusted because we have done the exact opposite.

The Social Security Advisory Committee pointed out absolutely clearly that we are creating work disincentives by the cuts while the Government itself, in its promotion of the New Deal, has constantly highlighted the genuine need of lone-parent families on income support.

THE cuts are a dagger in the heart of the New Deal for lone parents. If the cuts had not been *made, more lone parents* would have moved from welfare into work and the social security bill in future years would have fallen automatically.

The second disaster for the Government has arisen from the fact that most lone parents are women. The Women's Unit is spearheading some bold policy initiatives that will promote the interests of women, but the whole women's agenda has been blown out of the water by this catastrophic error. Nobody any longer takes us seriously as a party supporting women, which is an unfair and unnecessary tragedy.

Public outrage has been stunning and wonderful to behold. Instead of prejudice against lone parents, there has been a massive outpouring of sympathy and support. The Government completely misjudged the public as part of its wider miscalculation.

The Government must act immediately now Parliament has returned, to repair this dreadful damage. If it cannot bring itself to reverse the cuts then it *should announce a post*ponement for one year so that they can be considered as part of the comprehensive review of the social security budget. There will then be time to give serious consideration to the practical consequences of such cuts as well as to the large amount of research evidence. I look forward to a statement this week.



Kenichi Fukui

At the frontiers of theory

KENICHI Fukui, who has died of cancer aged 79, was the first, and currently the only Japanese winner of the Nobel Prize for chemistry. His theoretical work — carried out across three decades — has transformed the ability of scientists to predict the route and products of complex chemical reactions.

Fukui's ideas increasingly underlie the ability of pharmaceutical and fine chemical companies to predict optimum conditions for a particular reaction pathway, to minimise unwanted side-reactions and hence produce highly tailored and extremely pure products. The ideas rest on a simplified mathematical treatment of the interaction of electrons during reactions between different chemical species. In a complex way, these determine the reaction pathway.

In physics and physical chemistry the "orbit" of an individual electron is considered as a closed path in the form of a three dimensional figure-of-eight whose centre passes through the nucleus. Such an orbit possesses no angular momentum, is called an orbital and is considered mathematically as a wavefunction. It is quantified through complex equations which tell the probability of finding an electron in an infinitesimal volume at any particular point of the orbital. This type of calculation is difficult even for the single electron of the hydrogen atom in its normal — that is ground — state. For complex atoms involving many electrons it becomes far more difficult.

Difficulties become massively amplified in any mathematical description of probabilities within the huge range of possible interactions between the many electron orbitals of complex atoms during a chemical reaction. Such complexity lies at the limits of imagination, let alone prediction. Indeed, until about 30 years ago such descriptions were well beyond the range of useful calculation and, in spite of great advances in computing, still remain beyond reach in their fully complex form.

In 1952, however, prompted by what he later described as



the "delightful discovery" of a correlation between outer-orbital electron density and reactivity in aromatic hydrocarbons, Fukui published a major paper providing a simplified theoretical basis for new findings, by the American Nobel laureate Robert Milliken, on charge-transfer and electron donor-acceptors in complex chemical structures. His suggestion was that, even in the most complex of cases, these findings could be described and explained mathematically through the interactions and dislocation of the limited number of electrons in the outer orbitals. This paper introduced the crucial concept of "frontier orbitals" into physical chemistry and, eventually, opened accessible routes toward the understanding and prediction of chemical reactions.

> By the time he received the Nobel Prize he had produced 280 papers developing his orbital frontier theory and the paths of chemical reactions

But there was still a very long way to go. Although the orbital frontier concept began to be used in the 1960s, by the time he received his Nobel Prize in 1981 Fukui had produced, apart from papers in Japanese, about 280 papers in English developing his orbital frontier theory and the paths of chemical reactions. As the Nobel Committee declared, this was an amazing individual achievement.

Fukui graduated from Kyoto University in 1941 and, apart from research on synthetic fuel chemistry at the Japanese Army Fuel Laboratory and some fuel work after the war, spent his entire life on the frontier orbital theory and in guiding the theoretical studies of his group at Kyoto, which reached international stature after he became professor in 1951.

Although it is still widely believed in Japan that, to obtain Nobel awards or other major international prizes it is necessary for Japanese scientists to work for years outside Japan, Fukui argued that it would be better to develop more western style universities like Kyoto, supporting highly specialised research centres with attractive exchange programmes that bring talent in. As in quantum chemistry, he was and is probably right.

Born in Nara, the eldest of three sons of a merchant and manufacturer, Kenichi Fukui was not particularly interested in chemistry at school and entered the department of industrial chemistry at Kyoto mainly because it was an option favoured by his father and suggested by Kyoto's Professor Gen-itsu Kita. The choice was crucial, for Professor Kita also proved to have an important later influence in encouraging Fukui to concentrate on the very demanding task of developing his quantum-chemistry.

Fukui was a very gentle scientist, held in deep respect in America where he was a foreign member of the National Academy of Sciences, and a man who believed profoundly that it is the role of science to extend understanding, to contribute to human happiness and lead to global and environmental stability. He married Tomoc Horic in 1947 and leaves a son and a daughter.

Anthony Tucker

Professor Kenichi Fukui, chemist, born October 4, 1918; died January 9, 1998

Roger Clark

Driving force of a champion

ROGER Clark, who has died aged 58 from a stroke, was Britain's best-ever rally driver. He won the RAC International Rally in 1972 and 1976, and on the first of those occasions I was privileged to be his co-driver, and to watch his mastery of a Ford Escort RS1600 on the most appalling surfaces.

In almost every way Roger was a "people's champion" — fast, spectacular, affable and very amiable with his public. In private, though, he could be grumpy at times — he hated starting rallies too early in the morning — and he was a deep thinker who never gave less than his best in any branch of motorsport.

He concentrated on rallying, for although he dabbled successfully in rallycross (especially in monstrous four-wheel-drive Ford Capris), he despised motor racing because "after the first few laps, I know my way round, and that's boring . . ."

In today's highly charged sporting atmosphere he would have wilted, for he was far happier behind the wheel of a bucking and sliding rally car than in the public relations spotlight. Although he always gave good value to his sponsors, he was happier taking a few beers with his friends or among crowds of enthusiasts than with the movers, shakers and agents of the promotion business.

Today's drivers go into rigorous dieting and training regimes, consult psychologists and are as at home with TV cameras as they are with pace notes, but the Roger I knew would have nothing of that. His talent was God-given and fully-formed almost from his first days.

Born near Leicester, he grew up close to the motor vehicle, and as a young man he preferred sport to academic studies, soon discovering that he could drive faster, and safer, than anyone else he knew. By the 1970s, at the height of his fame, his car control was superlative, and his enjoyment of the sport never wavered. Even after the "works" drives dried up, he would still go rallying if suitable cars were offered, and was fully competitive in "classic" motorsport until the end.

After coming up through the ranks of rallying in the time-honoured way — first by using old bangers which he borrowed from the garage when his father was not watching, then using his own battered Mini-Cooper — he soon got sponsored drives from British factories.

First in a Reliant Sabre, then a Triumph TR4, and next in Rover 2000s, he broke no records but astonished us all with a Monte Carlo Rally category win in a Rover 2000, then won three British international rallies in Ford Cortina GTs which he had prepared himself. Ford then signed him on an exclusive contract, and for the next 15 years he was one of their leading personalities. His last major victory, in Cyprus, came in 1980.

In all that time Roger Clark and the works Escorts — particularly the supertuned 16-valve types in which we won the RAC Rally and so many other events — seemed to be made for each other. Although he won 27 international-status events, others slipped away due to breakdowns.

Roger was physically strong, versatile, and seemed to have almost limitless endurance — there was nothing he liked more than a good battle in awful conditions, and no car he would rather use for that fight than the Escort. Unlike some of the 1990s superstars, he rarely crashed — and never made excuses.

I knew him both as his co-driver and as one of his contacts at Ford, finding him



Clark . . . competitive

ready to tackle any event, in any country, in all conditions. Although he excelled on loose surfaces — few of the legendary Scandinavian drivers could surpass his pace — he was equally at home on ice and snow or in the heat and dust of Africa.

He wasn't always the luckiest of drivers. Many still look on him as the moral victor of the first London-Sydney Marathon in 1968, while at least one win in the East African Safari was torn from his grasp by wilting wiring over the rough terrain.

Building up the Leicester-based family business in the 1970s, he also opened a specialised sports car dealership in the same area, but this group ran into serious financial difficulties early in the 1990s, which hit him very hard. Later he set up a rally-car preparation business, in which his sons figured strongly.

His health had been failing for some time, but it gave us both enormous pleasure to be re-united with our beautifully-restored 1972 RAC Rally winning car last year. Given time, I am sure he would have liked to drive it fast again — just once. He is survived by his wife Judith, affectionately known as "Goo", and two sons.

Tony Mason

Roger Clark, rally driver, born August 5, 1939; died January 12, 1998

Billie Dove

Star of the silent era

BILLIE Dove, who has died aged 96, was one of the most luminous stars of the silent screen. At her peak in the 1920s the "American Beauty" had a slender, graceful figure, dark hair with kiss curls and enormous hazel eyes. It was as a Ziegfeld Follies showgirl on Broadway, dripping with pearls, singing *A Pretty Girl Is Like A Melody* while sitting on a suspended hoop, that she attracted the attention of the movie moguls. She also attracted stagedoor Johnnies that included Vanderbilts and Rockefellers. "It seemed to me that the whole world and everything in it was dancing," she recalled, "and that I must dance with it."

Born Lillian Bohney of Swiss parentage, she started modelling professionally at the age of 14, sitting for the best commercial artists, such as James Montgomery Flagg. He called her the Dove because she was always "so shy and lovely to look at", which



Billie Dove . . . in many early roles she played out her real-life story of the chorus girl who becomes a star

prompted her choice of stage name. Flo Ziegfeld saw some of the photographs and offered her a part in his *Follies of 1917*.

In most of her early screen roles, in films like *Polly of the Follies*, she played what she had been, a chorus girl who became a star on the Great White Way. For her sixth film, a seafaring melodrama, *All The Brothers Were Valiant* (1923), Dove was directed by Irvin V Willat, whom she married the same year. He directed her in three other films, including *Wanderer of the Wasteland* (1924), the first two-strip Technicolor feature. Variety, thought that "if there are moments in the script where he has run a little too much footage on the closeups of Billie Dove he should be forgiven, for she certainly is beautiful to look at in colour."

In another early colour film, *The Black Pirate* (1926), perhaps the most famous in which she appeared, Dove played a princess rescued from baddies by Douglas Fairbanks, as an aristocrat who has joined a pirate crew. In the same year, in *The Marriage Clause*, she proved her credentials as a dramatic actress, playing a woman who becomes a Broadway star due to the guidance of her director (Francis X Bushman).

Meanwhile, her own director husband was manifesting his jealousy because of his wife's liaison with millionaire producer Howard Hughes. Marion Davis had introduced them at the Starlight dance room at the Biltmore Hotel. The two 24-year-olds were seen together at party after party. "Wherever I went the door would be open and in would come Howard to sit beside me, where he would remain for the rest of the evening," Dove remembered. "Our love developed slowly and quietly, the deepest love I would ever experience."

They were both still married at the time, and Willat had detectives following them. Hughes told one of his employees to "Find that son-of-a-bitch Willat and ask him what he wants to divorce Billie and leave us alone". Willat accepted $325,000 in cash to agree to an uncontested divorce in 1929.

Hughes continued to court her, buying her a yacht named Rodeo after the character she played in the Jazz Age talkie *The Painted Angel* (1929). Soon after Dove had made a successful transition to sound, Hughes starred her in two of his productions, *The Age for Love* (1931) and *Cock of the Air* (1932), both of which were flops. Then, on their return from a romantic European trip and the announcement of their engagement, she suddenly left Hughes and married Robert Kenaston, a handsome young millionaire rancher with oil wells and orange groves.

Dove's final film (apart from a bit part in *Diamond Head* in 1962) was *Blondie of the Follies* (1933) opposite Marion Davis. When William Randolph Hearst saw the first cut he thought Dove was stealing the film from Davis, who was his lover; he used his influence to have Dove's role reduced.

For the next 37 years, Billie Dove lived in retirement as Lillian Kenaston, the mother of a son and adopted daughter. A third marriage to architect John Miller, a much younger man, lasted a few months. In 1979, she made an appearance on stage at the National Film Theatre for a showing of Alexander Korda's *The Yellow Lily* (1928), in which she starred. Though 78 and white-haired, the audience was in no doubt that her sobriquet of "The American Beauty" was justified.

Ronald Bergan

Billie Dove, screen actress, born May 14, 1901; died December 31, 1997

Alan Mouncer

Camera on the Games

THE extraordinary ability of Alan Mouncer, who has died from a heart attack aged 68, to conceive and visualise how a programme should be filmed, and turn it into a television broadcast, coupled with his output of ideas, ensured his rise from cameraman to senior BBC outside broadcast producer. He covered the Coronation, four royal weddings and five Olympic games.

Mouncer pioneered techniques of visual coverage and commentary that became standard practice. In sport he was the first to use isolated cameras in conjunction with slow-motion. This allowed individual shots in cricket to be analysed, or close-ups on athletes with every muscle and sinew straining.

He first joined the BBC aged 16 in 1946 on a youth training scheme, and after National Service returned and transferred from radio to television as a cameraman. In 1953 he played a key role in Coronation coverage from Westminster Abbey — the first such ceremony to be televised worldwide.

Mouncer worked on every major outside broadcast from 1956 to 1974, including the weddings of Princess Margaret, the Duke of Kent, and Princess Anne and the funeral of Sir Winston Churchill. He produced and directed the Olympic Games in Rome, Tokyo, Mexico, Munich and Montreal. For the Grand National he shot a sequence showing the course from the jockey's view, attaching a camera to a low-flying helicopter and brushing through the tops of the fences.

He retired from the BBC in the mid-1970s and worked on freelance projects. He is survived by a son and daughter from his first marriage and by his second wife, Melanie.

Gloria Bristow

Alan Mouncer, film director and producer, born December 1, 1929; died December 6, 1997

Birthdays

Prof Sir Melville Arnott, cardiologist, 89; **Peter Barkworth**, actor, 69; **Carol Bellamy**, executive director, Unicef, 56; **Richard Briers**, actor, 64; **Caroline Burton**, investment director, 48; **Faye Dunaway**, actress, 57; **Michael Foster**, Labour MP, 35; **Marina Gielgud**, ballerina and artistic director, 53; **Brian Hardie**, cricketer, 48; **Sophie Harley**, fashion designer, 33; **Sir Martin Holdgate**, president, Zoological Society of London, 67; **Jack Jones**, singer, 80; **Prof Sir Hans Kornberg**, former master, Christ's College, Cambridge, 70; **Rear Admiral Jeremy Larkin**, Falklands commander, 59; **Warren Mitchell**, actor, 72; **Sir Trevor Nunn**, theatre director, 58; **Sir Christopher Reeves**, merchant banker, 62; **Caterina Valente**, guitarist and singer, 67; **Bill Werbeniuk**, snooker player, 42; **Kenny Wheeler**, jazz trumpeter, composer, 68; **Hazel Williamson QC**, crown court recorder, 51; **Sir John Woodcock**, prison breaks investigator, 66; **Roger Young**, chief executive, Scottish Hydro-Electric, 54.

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The Guardian

Jackdaw



Made to order

INDIVIDUALISED products don't stop at jeans. Think of the potential — and implications — of making all manufactured products unique. By connecting directly with production processes all customers, whether they are the final consumers or designers specifying a component, become what American futurologist Alvin Toffler has termed "prosumers"(producers plus consumers) and will be able to control not only the product features but perhaps also the "design" of the product as well . . .

Perhaps the final question is: do customers actually want to customise? The realistic answer is that it depends on the consumer and the product. We may be returning to something similar to the pre-industrial manufacturing paradigm where things were made to order. What is striking in those cultures is not how different and individual products were, but how similar. But in post-modern societies people are becoming more individual and more willing to express themselves through products like clothes, personal accessories and furniture.

Can mere mortals be trusted with design? asks Blueprint.

Amex ode

OUR Marks
Which art in Spencer
Hallowed be thy foodhall
Thy Gucci watch
Thy Kookai bag
In Hermès
As it is in Harrods
Give us each our Visa Gold Cards
And forgive us our overdraft
As we forgive those who stop our next credit card
And lead us into cheap imitation
And deliver us from our bank managers
For thine is the Naf Naf, the Cartier and the Versace
For Gaultier and Eternity
Amex
Tatler's Ode to Shopping

I'm Smokin'

WATCH the actors in old movies and you'll see that there are a host of ways to open the closed end of a cigar before smoking it. Some characters used a pocket knife to cut a neat V shaped notch. Others used horseshoe nails as piercers. Certain film stars in tough-guy roles bit off the end and spat it out. Some people today still use these methods but, for the most part, cutting cigars has become a bit less colourful, and a bit more elegant.

The better the cigars you smoke, the more attention you'll want to pay to the cut. A bad cut will ruin a cigar.

The object of the cut is to create an ample, smooth opening for smoking without damaging the cigar's structure. With most cigars this means cutting away part of the cap or flag leaf that closes the cigar, while leaving some of it glued around the end to keep the filter leaves together.

If you are making a wedge cut or bulls-eye cut, it means not penetrating too deeply into the cigar. You want to create a large, exposed surface of cleanly cut filler leaves that will allow equal draw from the core and rim of the cigar.

On most cigars you'll want to make the cut about one-sixteenth of an inch (about two millimeters) from the end.

If you're going to do it, do it right, advises Cigar Aficionado.



Tatler . . . shopper's prayer

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk.; fax 0171-713 4366; write Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Hannah Pool

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

A QUOTATION on Page 1 yesterday, displayed alongside the main picture, was mistakenly attributed to David Trimble. The quotation, "We hope it forms the basis for detailed negotiation . . ." etc, is correctly attributed in the report to the Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam.

IN THE obituary for Sir Michael Tippett, Page 19, January 10, we said Britten's Peter Grimes was premiered in 1934, when we should have said 1945. The correct title of Tallis's 40-part motet is Spem in alium. In the leading article, on Page 20 the same day, Concerto for Double Orchestra should have been Concerto for Double String Orchestra.

A CAPTION to a photograph accompanying a report headed, Parents forgive killer drink driver, Page 6 yesterday, said John Were . . . was described by the judge as "an exceptionally fine young man". The judge was quoting a neighbour of Mr Were's as the report made clear.

A PANEL across the bottom of Pages 6 and 7, G2 yesterday, gave August 1990 as the date of the coup mounted by opponents of Mikhail Gorbachev. It should have said 1991. In the article itself, headlined Corners of foreign fields, we misspelt the place-name, Kamakura.

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor, Ian Mayes, by telephoning 0171 239 9589 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Fax: 0171 239 9897. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

Death Notices

GOODJOHN, Eileen Mary, BSc, BA, Dip.Ed., late of Bawtry. Founder principal Swinton Day Training College, later Scawsby College of Education, died 8th January 1998 at Alexandra Nursing Home, Long Eaton, aged 88. Funeral service at Brancote Crematorium, Nottingham, 26th January, 11 am. Family flowers only. Donations for Doncaster District Scope or Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust c/o Co-operative Funeral Service, 90 Derby Road, Long Eaton, Nottingham. Tel: 0115 973 2848.

To place your announcement telephone 0171 713 4567 or fax 0171 713 4129 between 9am and 3pm Mon-Fri.

هكذا من الأصل

Nose job sponsored by Domecq, page 12 Tomorrow: The pay and jobs picture

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

FinanceGuardian

Early relaxation of rules would bring forward new era for broadcasting

Beckett set to lift BT ban

Simon Beavis
Media Business Editor

THE Government is to let British Telecom launch into broadcasting ahead of schedule in a move which could provoke protests from the cable TV industry and re-open charges that Labour is dealmaking with business.

The Trade Secretary, Margaret Beckett, is expected to publish a green paper in the next few weeks arguing that the ban on BT, imposed by the Conservatives in 1991, is becoming an anachronism and should be lifted in 2000, a year ahead of schedule.

BT would be free to undergo one of the most radical transformations in its corporate history allowing it to branch out of telecommunications and plunge into the rapidly converging world of multimedia. It could offer entertainment over its national network, in open competition with cable companies offering phone and TV services.

Labour pledged in its manifesto that the ban — seen by many to have been overtaken by rapid technological advances — would be reviewed. Tony Blair had committed the party to doing so in his party conference address in 1995 when he revealed that BT had agreed to hook up schools to the Internet if the block was removed.

Although latterly watered down, the initial pledge led to charges from the Conservatives that Labour was doing a backroom deal with BT which would undermine competition. The Conservative government imposed the restriction to encourage US Cable companies to invest in networks around Britain by buying 180 franchises and getting exclusive rights to offer telephone and broadcasting to homes. Cable now passes 10.2 million homes, with 3.25 million customers subscribing.

BT accepted the ban but has always argued that it should be given a clear date for when it would be allowed to start broadcasting so it could begin upgrading its local network.

In 1994, the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee argued that BT should be given responsibility for building a national information superhighway. The MPs said that to encourage BT to invest an estimated £15 billion in the fibre-optic network the ban should be lifted progressively from 1998.

Sources suggest that Labour was prepared to back the committee's recommendation at first, but ministers are said to believe that by relaxing the deadline by only a year they will quell protests from the cable industry.

The telecoms regulator, Don Cruickshank, has always been chary about an early relaxation of the rules and last summer warned the Government that rethinking the ban would require a broad review of broadcasting policy.

BT has always insisted that it has no desire to become a programme maker or a producer of programme content, a point reiterated by its chief executive, Sir Peter Bonfield, just before Christmas.

But observers believe it is likely to have high ambitions for broadcasting and note that it has staked out a position in digital television through its joint venture with Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB in British Interactive Broadcasting.

CBS back in the gridiron picture

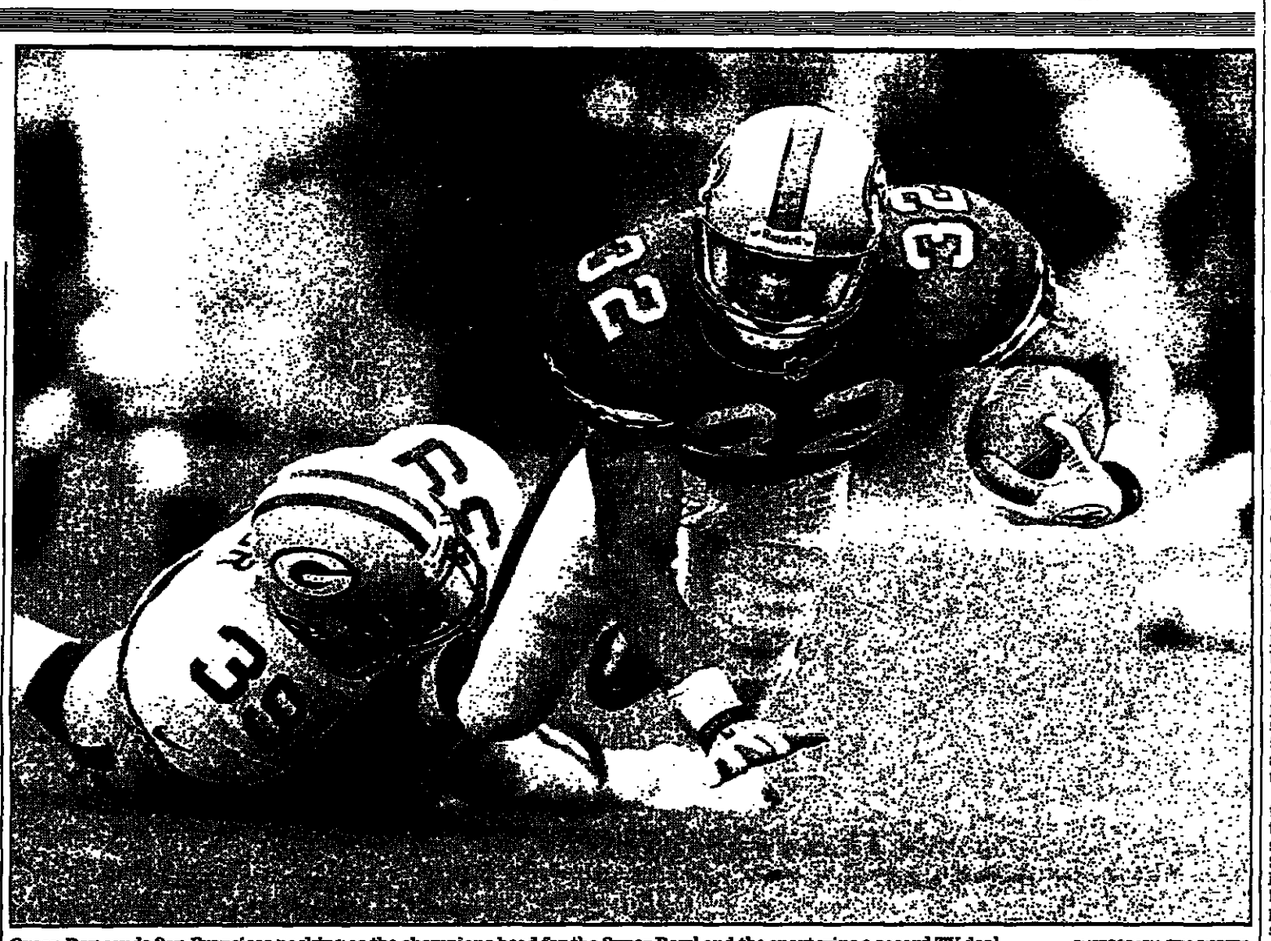
US TELEVISION networks will pay an estimated $15 billion (£9.3 billion) over eight years to broadcast American football, in the most lucrative deal yet for the sport, *Mark Tran writes from New York.*

The latest bargaining marks the return of CBS to the game after four years. It will broadcast American Football Conference (AFC) matches and has agreed to pay $4 billion for the rights, elbowing out rival network NBC.

Rupert Murdoch's network, Fox — a fledgling four years ago — stunned the established networks when it outbid CBS for the right to air games from the National Football Conference (NFC) — the stronger of the two conferences. Fox's coup helped establish it as a legitimate network.

The National Football League, which covers both the conferences, is in the final season of a four-year, $4.38 billion deal with Fox, NBC, ABC, ESPN and TNT.

The latest deal comes days before the Super Bowl, played between the winners of the NFC and AFC — the Green Bay Packers and the Denver Broncos.



Green Bay sends San Fransisco packing as the champions head for the Super Bowl and the sport wins a record TV deal PHOTOGRAPH: ERIC RISBERG

Microsoft under the gun from two sides

Tokyo offices raided as US fires opening salvoes in court case. **Mark Tran** reports

MICROSOFT yesterday was under assault on opposite sides of the *Pacific as Japanese trade* officials raided the software group's Tokyo offices while the company and the US Justice Department fired the opening salvoes in a contempt of court charge.

The Justice Department has asked Judge Thomas Jackson to find Microsoft in contempt of his December ruling, ordering *the company to* separate its Internet browser from its Windows 95 personal computer software. Microsoft faces a fine of $1 million a day if found in contempt. The contempt proceedings began with opening statements from the government and Microsoft and continues today. A ruling could come *this week*.

Microsoft is expected to offer a detailed explanation of how Explorer is interwoven with the Windows 95 operating system and so cannot be separated without crippling *the operating system. In court documents*, Microsoft has said that Explorer, far from being a separate programme, "*constitutes a core subset of* Windows 95 technologies" that permits computer users to find information on the Internet much as they find files on a hard disc drive.

In response to the December ruling, Microsoft offered computer makers an old version of Windows 95 without Explorer and another Windows version *that fails to* work properly with the browser. Microsoft's reaction was widely seen as a snub to the court, obeying the letter but not the spirit of the law.

Before yestersay's hearing, Microsoft asked Judge Jackson to remove the expert he appointed to weigh evidence in the Justice Department's *antitrust case*. Microsoft has argued that Professor Lawrence Lessig, a Harvard University Internet expert, is biased against the company. In evidence of its accusation, Microsoft cited an email Mr Lessig sent last summer to an executive at Netscape Communications, Microsoft's archrival in the browser wars.

According to Microsoft, Professor Lessig compared installing a version of Explorer to "selling his soul. Microsoft also said that information that could bear on his impartiality was "removed inexplicably" from a summary of a recent Harvard University Internet forum. Both Professor Lessig and the Justice Department have declined to comment on the charges.

Apart from legal problems in the US, Microsoft also came under attack in Japan, where trade officials searched company offices as part of an investigation into whether it is violating Japan's anti-monopoly laws. Microsoft has confirmed the investigation *by Japan's Fair Trading* Commission.

Meanwhile, the US Federal Trade Commission said that it would continue to investigate Intel, the chip maker, in its $420 million acquisition of Chips and Technologies, the leading maker of graphic chips for laptop computers.

Capital dealt blow to big ambitions as monopolies body bites

Chris Barrie

CAPITAL Radio yesterday suffered a setback to its plans to buy more London *radio stations, after the fail*ure of its Virgin takeover, when the Monopolies Commission indicated that it would impose hefty conditions on future deals.

Capital indicated that it could still pursue acquisitions in London, but any deal would be hampered by the need to consider the MMC's *likely demands*.

The report into Capital's bid for Virgin Radio was the MMC's first into the radio industry and was seen as indicating how other acquisitions would be treated.

But there was little guidance as the Trade and Industry Secretary, Margaret Beckett, declined to say if she *accepted the conclusions*. Last night she was accused of leaving commercial radio in turmoil.

While the MMC pondered, Virgin was bought by venture capitalists Apax and Ginger Productions, part-owned by presenter Chris Evans.

The MMC rejected Capital's view that radio advertising was no different to television or newspaper advertising. It found that Capital's strong market position would have been reinforced by a merger.

The MMC decided that a deal would have diminished competition and raised prices. It could have gone ahead only if Capital Gold had been sold or the London-only Virgin FM left out of the deal in favour of the national Virgin AM.

One observer said competitors to Capital had bigger market shares in Manchester, Leeds and Newcastle. Would the MMC apply similar restrictions? Some radio companies may ask the Radio Authority to clarify its position on this issue.

Notebook

Take a chip off New York block



Edited by Alex Brummer

IT WOULD be easy to dismiss the warnings of disruption of public service and threats to public safety prompted by the millennium bug as a hyperbole from a group of blow-hards. But neither would be true.

The British-North American Committee, which has rung the alarm bell, includes some of the most important *figures in global business*. Moreover, putting to one side the millennium bug threat, senior figures inside British government have serious concerns about the ability of ageing information systems to produce timely tax and benefits changes — let alone cope with 2000.

Matters have not been helped by confusion and complacency inside the Government. The funding and support for Taskforce 2000, has proved inadequate, as its executive director, Robin Guenier, outlined in a letter to *Tony Blair on January 6, in* which he talked of a "a dreadful record of missed deadlines". The Department of Trade and Industry forum chaired by Donald Cruickshank, Action 2000, is barely *off the ground and still look*ing for a chief executive, even though there is only a year or so left to deal with the problem. A new black-on-yellow bug logo may help bring the potential crisis to public attention but will not solve the problem of underfunding inside government (only £370 million has been set aside) and foot-dragging in the private sector.

One quick fix could be to take a leaf out of the Securities and Exchange Commission manual in the US. The SEC has ordered all publicly *listed companies in the US to* include a millennium-bug preparedness report with stock market filings, auditing progress in dealing with the problem.

Perhaps Mr Blair could *begin by asking the London* Stock Exchange to do something similar. However, the bigger challenge will be to invigorate Whitehall and find suitable amounts of contingency funding to ensure that *broader policy initiatives*, like tax reform, are not held back by IT negligence.

Dutch courage

SUGGESTIONS that the Dutch are implacably opposed to Italian qualification for the first wave of monetary union are growing too loud to be ignored. Initially, press reports in Ger*many claimed that the Dutch* would ditch the project if the Italians were allowed to qualify. Then a Dutch newspaper reported that the country's finance minister, Gerrit Zalm, would resign if Rome got the nod on EMU.

On the face of it there are two explanations. The first is that someone is simply making mischief, the second that the Dutch, or at least Mr Zalm's VVD party, are genuinely worried that Italy will sneak in under the wire by meeting the qualification criteria in 1997 but that sustained convergence is still beyond Italy's grasp.

There may, however, be another game afoot. The French, almost certainly with the support of their Italian allies, have been pushing to get Banque de France governor Jean Claude Trichet in as governor of the European Central Bank. His rival for the job is former Dutch central bank chief Wim Duisenberg who, as well as enjoying home support, has the backing of the *Bundesbank*.

The battle over the ECB governorship may be entering endgame. One much-touted possibility is that the French would settle for the first eight-year ECB term being split, with their candidate taking the second half.

So far the French have been making most of the running in the ECB stakes. The rumours about Dutch opposition to Italy joining the first group of qualifying countries could be just a reminder to both Rome and Paris that the when push comes to shove *the northern Europeans* can muster their own forces.

Fayed thrust

IT IS all too easy to scoff at Mohamed Al Fayed's interest in bidding for the Rolls-Royce luxury car group. But *there is a perverse logic* behind such a move. Mr Al Fayed already owns one of Britain's best-known brand names, Harrods.

The store is a shopping mecca for the rich and famous, just the sort of people who would go out and buy a Rolls or Bentley car.

The Rolls-Royce car business needs engineering expertise but this is available within the company or can be bought in. It also needs an understanding of the superwealthy, and this is less easy to obtain.

A potential buyer of a Rolls car may also be considering not an alternative luxury car but a yacht, a painting, a racehorse or a football club. It is a world Mr Al Fayed knowns well, not least from experi*ence*.

He has already shown that he can raise large sums of money when he needs to. Few thought that he would be able to find the funds to buy House of Fraser, the then owner of Harrods, but he did.

Owning Rolls would also be a useful adjunct to Egyptian-born Mr Al Fayed's long running campaign to become British.

The general public, without the burdens of commercial logic, seems unhappy at the idea of Rolls being owned by one of the big three German *carmakers, the current front*runners. A successful bid by Mr Al Fayed, accompanied by a wave of the Government's citizenship wand, could solve the PR problem at a stroke.

Liberty chiefs walk the plank

Tony May

ALL *the executives* resigned yesterday at Liberty, the 122-year-old fashion and fabrics store in London's West End at the centre of an extraordinary struggle for control. They were followed by its bankers, brokers, solicitors and public relations consultants.

The moves leave the store in the hands of rebels who objected to a £43 million refurbishment proposed by chairman Denis Cassidy, ousted last month after a colourful meeting of the Liberty family clans and supporters.

The rebels yesterday appointed as chairman Philip Bowman, formerly finance director of Bass, after forcing out finance director Andrew Garety, managing director Ian Thomson and directors Brian Perry and Evie Soames. They resigned rather than face ejection at an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders threatened by rebel directors Odile Griffith, adviser to a member of the founding family, and Brian Myerson, a South African corporate raider.

The duo, with the backing of a small group of shareholders with 52 per cent of the shares, have gained *entry to* the board as non-executive directors, got rid of everyone else and must start salvaging the company all over again.

Mr Bowman, who ran Bass Taverns, began yesterday by meeting staff. His plans include an immediate review of the business, rebuilding the management, and finding a suite of corporate advisers to replace Barings, Cazenove, Slaughter & May and Shandwick — who will continue for a few months in the interests of continuity.

Mr Bowman was recently finance director of Coles Myer, Australia's largest retailer. He won a £712,000 settlement after he was dismissed when he began to question a share transaction which he alleged had cost the company a large amount of money.

South-east's house price surge defies national trend

Teresa Hunter

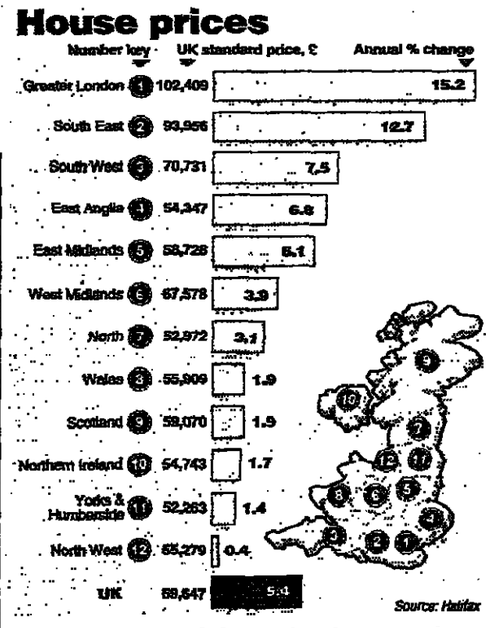
HOUSE prices in the South-east are rising faster than at any time since 1988, despite December's *slight fall in property* inflation across the country, according to figures published yesterday by Britain's biggest mortgage lender, the Halifax.

The price of an average *home in the South-east* rose by 3.4 per cent over the past three months, pushing up the price of a typical home to £93,955, which is 12.7 per cent more than a year ago, the Halifax's quarterly *regional survey* showed.

Inflation on this scale was last seen in the South-east at the end of 1988, when prices leapt by 4.3 per cent over the quarter.

A Halifax spokesman said: "House prices in the South-east are reaping the rewards of stronger income growth than elsewhere in the country and enjoying *the overspill effect of the* boom in London."

Elsewhere in the country the property market was subdued, however, triggering a 0.2 per cent dip in the national average house price in December to £69,809. Prices ended the year only 4.3 per cent up, fuelling speculation about a downturn in the market.



Rail 'no better than under BR'

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

THE privatised rail industry is wasting public money and not performing any better than when the network was under state control, British Rail chairman John Welsby said last night.

In his first public comments about the industry since its privatisation two years ago, Mr Welsby told a conference in London: "The honeymoon is very close to being over."

He said there had been an initial improvement but over the past nine months a sea*change* had occurred and performance, far from continuing to improve, had deteriorated. "The failings are not isolated local ones, but are spread across the country. An objective assessment of the railway shows that is hardly better than it was in the last years of public ownership."

The comments will be regarded by some people as sour grapes because BR now does little more than control the Transport Police and advise the Government on rail matters. Legislation in the autumn will pave the way for it to be replaced by a strategic rail authority.

Mr Welsby's speech will *strike a chord with many* commuters and others who argue that the railways are too fragmented and, although underpinned by almost £2 billion a year of taxpayers' money, bring little obvious return.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.481	France 9.854	Italy 2.863	Singapore 2.84
Austria 20.32	Germany 2.887	Malta 0.69	South Africa 7.89
Belgium 59.58	Greece 458.00	Netherlands 3.242	Spain 243.49
Canada 2.279	Hong Kong 12.24	New Zealand 2.78	Sweden 12.84
Cyprus 0.847	India 64.35	Norway 11.95	Switzerland 2.34
Denmark 11.07	Ireland 1.158	Portugal 295.34	Turkey 328,140
Finland 8.829	Israel 5.77	Saudi Arabia 6.00	USA 1.591

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

Inflation fear as firms fight for the skilled



PHOTOGRAPH: NEIL LIBBERT

LOVERS of the arts complain about the cost of visiting theatres, museums and concert halls, but prices would probably be a lot higher if it wasn't for big business, *writes Nicholas Bannister*.

Corporate sponsorship of the arts rose 20 per cent to a record £96 million in 1997, according to figures published yesterday.

Drinks group Allied Domecq, for example, gave the Royal Shakespeare Company £1.1 million last year, enabling it to stage plays such as Cyrano de Bergerac, starring Anthony Sher (above). AT&T, the leading American telecoms group, yesterday announced it was to be the main sponsor of the Royal Court Theatre's spring season, with its £30,000 contribution helping to fund three new plays.

The telecom group last year helped to fund Islington's small Almeida Theatre which presented a new production of Chekhov's Ivanov, starring Ralph Fiennes.

Colin Tweedy, director general of the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts, said: "We're starting to see individual sponsorships pushing a million pounds, with big brands and City firms getting on board."

The Government last year provided about £686 million in grants through the Arts Council, while the National Lottery added a further £250 million, mainly for capital projects such as new buildings or refurbishments.

Celia Weston and Charlotte Denny

THE spectre of wage inflation was again haunting the British economy last night as skill shortages, particularly among smaller firms, threatened to undermine the competitiveness of this significant sector of the economy.

Small businesses, which employ half the private sector workforce, yesterday also warned that the education system continues to fail the business community because school leavers and graduates lack basic literacy skills.

The skills shortages are widespread, according to the 110,000-strong British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) data released yesterday, and are seen in sales and management staff, and also in clerical and office workers. The data also pointed to an acute shortage of computing and information technology skills

The warning that wage inflation is being stoked by companies fighting to employ too few qualified staff came as official figures showed the Government failed to hit its 2.5 per cent inflation target in December.

Figures released yesterday show the underlying figure, which excludes mortgage interest payments, was 2.7 per cent for the final month of the year, down by 0.1 percentage points on November. Analysts warned that it could head back up towards 3 per cent by the end of this year.

Headline inflation also fell last month to 3.6 per cent from 3.7 per cent in November. The Office of National Statistics said most of the slowdown in inflation was the result of the November 1996 hike in petrol duties falling out of the 12 month index.

But Ian Peters deputy director general of the BCC, warned that more than half the firms in the survey had reported specific skills shortages while more than six out of 10 commented that school leavers lacked basic writing skills and nearly four out of 10 (38 per cent) had levelled the same complaint against graduates.

Mr Peters said: "Skills shortages create major capacity constraints in the economy, *giving rise to inflationary* pressures, just what the UK does not need at the present time. Meanwhile, the education system appears to be failing to meet the needs of small business which tend to be hardest hit by skills shortages."

● Britain could qualify for more generous European grants *if it abandoned* its main measure of unemployment and adopted a more accurate yardstick, according to research published today, *writes Mark Atkinson*.

Official figures are expected to confirm today that December saw the 22nd consecutive monthly drop in number of people out of work and claiming benefit.

But Anne Green, of the Institute for Employment Research at the University of Warwick, said the claimant count figures would understate the true level of joblessness because they exclude vast numbers of people, including those on Government schemes, those defined as economically inactive although would like a job and those in part-time work because they cannot find a full-time job.

If all of these people were included in the unemployment total, it would rise significantly.

Because the claimant count is used as a means of allocating *EU regional assistance* grants, a higher level of unemployment would qualify the UK for a bigger share of that cake.

● Low levels of investment and sluggish economic growth in the advanced economies are to blame for unemployment rather than globalisation, according to a report published today by the Employment Policy Institute.

Euro launch could stall Britain's entry to EMU

Mark Atkinson and **Martin Walker** on the rocky road leading to a single currency

BRITAIN'S desire to join economic and monetary union in the next parliament could be thwarted by the increased volatility of sterling following the euro launch in 1999, Charles Goodhart, a member of the Bank of England's monetary policy committee said yesterday.

Mr Goodhart said that one way for investors seeking to diversify their holdings after various European currencies were absorbed into the euro next year would be to buy *pounds or US dollars*.

"... So you could argue that if the UK stays out, the exchange rate will be even more volatile than it has been," Mr Goodhart told a House of Lords Committee inquiring into the euro.

If that was the case, it would make it difficult for Britain to strictly satisfy the Maastricht criteria which stipulate a stable exchange rate two years prior to entry, demonstrated by membership of the ERM.

Mr Goodhart told the Lords committee that it did not automatically follow that Britain, where interest rates are around double those in France and Germany, would have to cut the cost of borrowing before it joined EMU.

That would depend on the relative economic cycles at the time of entry.

"By, say, 2002 it is feasible the euro area would be undergoing a cyclical upturn and have high interest rates and the UK, facing a cyclical downturn, have lower interest rates, so we might even be required to raise them," said Mr Goodhart.

His comments coincided with publication of a blizzard of reports by the European parliament on the implications of the euro and the founding of a new European Forum of MPs from both European and national parliaments which will study the currency's political impact.

"We must not allow the euro to become an elitist project," said Labour MEP Alan Donnelly as he launched the forum.

The common theme of the parliamentary reports is the need for a political and publicly accountable counterweight to the wide "independent powers of the European Central bank, which will determine monetary policy inside the euro-zone.

"This is the missing link, which creates a dangerous void in the system, concludes the report of the Italian socialist Giorgio Ruffolo, who calls for a "political authority that will take strategic decisions."

Further parliamentary reports on the euro are due to be debated in Strasbourg this week, including one from German conservative Ingo Friedrich, which warns of job losses in the financial sector as banks restructure.

Spain's Fernando Perez Royo argues that there is "a confidence problem, an impression that use of the euro is reserved for the rich" because the euro will initially only be used by financial markets and big corporations while the average European will have to wait until 2002 for the notes and coins.

Shopkeepers cheat on prices

Consumers are not enjoying real bargains, writes Charlotte Denny

CANNY shopkeepers jacked up prices last month in order to exaggerate the reductions on offer to consumers in the new year sales, according to official data published yesterday.

Household goods prices rose by 1.3 per cent in December, the largest increase since 1974, according to the Office for National Statistics. The data was collected before the unusually early start to the sale season which saw some shops cutting prices before Christmas.

ONS statisticians said price rises in November and December in preparation for new year sales had become increasingly common over the last five years. Consumer legislation requires shops to base sales claims on the standard price over the preceding 28 days at most of their stores.

Price cuts in January have outweighed November and December rises over the last 10 years, but the Consumers Association said yesterday that the end of year rises were "misleading."

"It gives the wrong impression to consumers," said the Association's Mark Purdy. "But it's a difficult area to regulate. We would advise consumers to keep a careful eye on the price of goods they wish to purchase in the sales so they can judge whether they are getting a real bargain or not."

The Department of Trade and Industry said they were examining the whole area of misleading claims by traders but there were no specific plans to amend the current regulations.

Despite the record December increase, the ONS said January promises to be a bumper month for bargain hunters. "In all but one of the last seven years, the overall level of discounting in the sales has shown an increase over the previous year." Household goods prices fell by 3.6 per cent in January 1997.

Clothing and footwear provided the best bargains last year with shops cutting prices by 5.8 per cent in January.

'Lost decade' fear of broker

Asia in turmoil

Mark Atkinson
Economics Correspondent

HONG Kong and China risk being swept away by the Asian financial crisis, a top analyst at Merrill Lynch, the world's biggest brokerage, said yesterday.

Predicting a "lost decade" for the region, Bill Belchere, head of currency and fixed income research and strategy in Singapore, said the two markets appeared to be relatively stable. But by the middle of this year China's growth-rate could be stagnating and foreign direct investment in the country falling.

That could present a "very difficult" situation for both China and Hong Kong. The Hong Kong dollar so far has maintained its peg to the US dollar, but there is speculation that a forced devaluation of the Chinese yuan could break the link.

Speaking in London, Mr Belchere said the Asian economies were unlikely to overcome their difficulties without debt defaults and restructuring, and supplementary aid from the International Monetary Fund. Even if they did, they would then be faced with severe economic and political problems.

Strong growth would be replaced by slowing growth or recession, stable inflation by rising or even hyper-inflation, comfortable fiscal positions by eroding ones.

In Indonesia, Mr Belchere said, the US was trying to legitimise the Suharto regime by making it look as though the president was part of the solution rather than the cause of the problem. He and his family had to go as a price for 30 years of dictatorship.

Yet Indonesia pledged to play by IMF rules yesterday, with a top official advocating a reduction in trade barriers and import taxes. His comments came as a cavalcade of US and IMF officials visited the region to assess the crisis.

IMF managing director Michel Camdessus took the opportunity to put a more positive spin on Korea, the biggest recepient of IMF aid. Mr Camdessus told Korean television that western credit rating agencies may have "overdone" their downgrades to Korean debt. Most agencies have reduced Korea's foreign currency debt ratings as below investment grade, or "junk."

News in brief

Accountancy deal hits snag

THE proposed merger between accountancy firms Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand received a setback last night after it emerged that the Department of Trade and Industry had told the European Commission of its concerns about the deal, *writes Pauline Springett*.

A DTI spokesman said "market sensitivity" prevented him disclosing the contents of the submission, but he expected it to provoke "a dialogue".

Sources within the accountancy industry insisted that the merger — and that of Ernst & Young with KPMG — was not under threat. However, the industry is braced for the EC to announce on January 22 that the merger raises "serious matters" and that it will conduct a more detailed study.



Airstrip ahoy

British-based shipbuilder Kvaerner and the US armed forces are working on a mile-long floating airstrip that would house up to 10,000 personnel. The SeaBase would compensate for the reduction of US air bases around the world.

Diageo departure

Guinness brewing chief Brendan O'Neill will not join senior management at the newly formed Diageo brewing group, but is set to move to chemicals group ICI in May.

Diageo has announced the formation of the Diageo Foundation to channel one 1 per cent of its profits, about £22 million a year, into charitable causes.

Footing ISA bill

By the time they are launched in April 1999, the Government's individual savings accounts (ISAs) will have cost the financial services industry close to £1 billion, according to a report by the management support company OSL. Companies are likely to pass on the cost to consumers, through charges of up to £30 per investor a year.

Christmas hangover

Retail groups Kingfisher, which owns B&Q, Woolworth, Superdrug and Comet, and Boots confirmed that consumer spending over Christmas was patchy and fell well short of a sales splurge.

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Racing

Wakeham resigns over financial plan

Chris Hawkins on the sudden departure of the British Horseracing Board chairman

LORD WAKEHAM rocked racing yesterday by resigning as chairman of the British Horseracing Board, the day before the announcement of the BHB's financial plan for the future.

Explaining his reasons, he said: "I have resigned as chairman and director of the BHB because I was unable to agree with the financial plan put before the Board. In my opinion the plan is unrealistic in the current economic circumstances."

Sir Thomas Pilkington, senior steward of the Jockey Club, will step into the breach for the time being and take his place at the BHB Forum when details of the plan, said to have arrived at a figure of £105 million a year for racing's needs, will be released. Pilkington said: "I want to emphasise that the whole of the BHB and all sectors of the industry are united in supporting the new financial plan. It is a comprehensive and carefully argued review of racing's position and we look forward to a constructive dialogue with the Government."

Wakeham clearly disagreed but there was more to it than that and for some time he has been unable to work with Peter Savill, one of the chief architects of the plan, because of personal differences.

Savill was one of Wakeham's fiercest critics, believing a man who held 13 other directorships could not devote the time necessary to run British racing properly.

Savill was not available for comment but Gerald Leigh, a leading owner-breeder who wrote to the Racing Post last week calling for Wakeham to go, said: "I'd say his resignation was inevitable because he was not supporting the work of his own sub-committee. We must stand by the plan — it states the case very clearly."

Even though Leigh might have thought Wakeham's resignation inevitable, it could hardly have come at a worse time for racing, so anxious to present a united front to the Government. To lose your commander just as the battle is about to start is little short of catastrophic. Wakeham knew this. One can credit him with sticking to his principles, although others may see his action as little short of sabotage.

Matthew McCloy, who will chair today's Forum, commented: "I regret that he has felt it necessary to make this stand. I am surprised and disappointed but the decision was his and his alone.

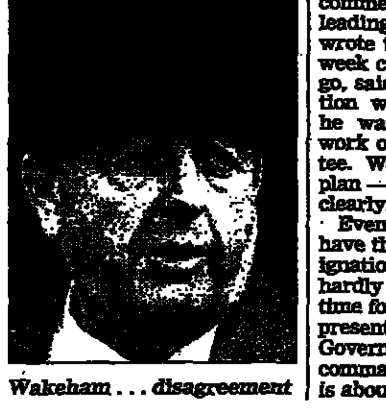
"It is quite clear that the arguments for the plan are compelling and the fact that Lord Wakeham is going won't make any difference to that."

Michael Caulfield, secretary of the Jockeys' Association, conceded that the resignation had tarnished racing's image. He said: "I'm very sad he's decided to resign at such an important time. He's given his main reason but those involved will know there's more to it and the personal insults he has had to endure have been undeserved.

"I always found John Wakeham a pleasant and easy man to deal with. He loved racing but found out that racing people are too selfish."

Wakeham, 65, was appointed chairman in July 1996 in the hope that his links with former colleagues in the Conservative Government would enable him to promote racing's cause. But any such advantage disappeared when Labour was returned to power in May.

A terse but tactful statement issued by the BHB said: "The Board wishes to place on record its appreciation of Lord Wakeham's contribution." Faint praise indeed.



Wakeham . . . disagreement



Full marks . . . Xaar streaks away with the Dewhurst Stakes and straight to the top of the two-year-old Classifications PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN LYNCH

Classifications a celebration of Fabre talents

Ron Cox

TO A large extent ratings are subjective, and the International Classifications, which were published yesterday, are no different despite the input of senior handicappers world-wide.

But no serious student of form could dispute the official view that Xaar was the best two-year-old of 1997; Peintre Celebre the leading three-year-old and Pilsudski the top older horse — albeit in the face of stiff opposition from his stable companion Singspiel.

From a theoretical ceiling figure of 140, Peintre Celebre earned a mark of 137 with his scintillating five-lengths victory over Pilsudski in the Arc.

Andre Fabre's colt tops the most comprehensive Classifications ever with a figure the joint second highest since their introduction in 1978. For the first time the list includes horses from Australia, Hong Kong and South Africa as well as Europe, the United States and Japan.

Peintre Celebre's four-year-old career is something to look forward to and Fabre, who for the second year running has more horses in the Classifications than any other trainer, is also responsible for champion juvenile Xaar. A seven-length demolition of Tamarisk in the Dewhurst Stakes puts Xaar on 127, 8lb clear of his nearest rival, the Aidan O'Brien-trained Second Empire.

Even that could underestimate his ability, though. Tamarisk is rated 115, just 12lb inferior to Xaar, and it could be argued that the French colt is at least a stone better than the Dewhurst second.

Despite his apparent superiority, Xaar yesterday eased from 5-4 to 6-4 with Ladbrokes for the 2,000 Guineas. They then bet 7-1 Second Empire and the much-vaunted King Of Kings, who has plenty to find on official figures. He is rated 111.

● Prospects of today's Sedgefield meeting going ahead are only "50/50" according to clerk of the course John Cleverly. After persistent rain there will be an inspection at 7.30am this morning.

Sedgefield with form for the Jackpot races

	TONY PALEY	TOP FORM
12.50	Old Hush Wing	Old Hush Wing
1.20	One Stop	One Stop (nb)
1.50	Sireric (nap)	Winter Belle
2.20	Danbys Gorse (nb)	Callernoy
2.50	Eirespray	Prince Example
3.20	Tindles Bible	Kalasadi
3.50	Hallelosfalls	Stylish Interval (nap)

Undulating, left-handed circuit of 1¼m with 200yds run-in.
Going: Good to soft, soft in places. ★ Denotes blinkers.
● INSPECTION 7.30am.
Long distance travellers: Workingforpeanuts (1.50) C Smith, H'ford & Worc 215 miles.
Seven day winners: None.
Blinkered first time: 1.20 Hya Prim; 2.20 Global Legend; 2.50 Apache Raider; 3.20 Ship The Builder. Visored: None.

12.50 MARSKE NOVICE HURDLE (DIV 1)
2m 5f 110yds £2,303 (13 declared)

101 4-1R Old Hush Wing (FR) (CD) (BF) P Haslam 5-11-12 — M Foster ● 90
102 -000F0 Chan Move (13) W Smith 6-11-6 — S Taylor (5) ★ —
103 4056 Come On Ellah (27) J Dance 5-11-6 — R Supple 86
104 U000- Hansel's Streak (208) F Murtagh 6-11-6 — A Dobbin —
105 58005 Knayton Knight (28) J Jefferson 5-11-6 — E Callaghan 85
106 Lunacar Lane Mrs A Swinbank 6-11-6 — J Supple —
107 65 Morley Prince (27) C Grant 5-11-6 — C McCormack (5) —
108 00 Parting The Waves (42) T Easterby 5-11-6 — L Wyer 87
109 P3P-5 Silly Pal (18) C Pogson 8-11-6 — M Brennan —
110 P0 Gamolly (14) R Barr 5-11-1 — M Smith —
111 00- Gymcrak Gypsy (314) G Holmes 6-11-1 — N Garrity —
112 Pheasants Delight Mrs M Reveley 8-11-1 — P Niven —
113 5530-0 Side By Side (48) C Thornton 5-11-1 — N Horrocks (7) —

Betting: 7-4 Old Hush Wing, 7-2 Parting The Waves, 11-2 Knayton Knight, 7-1 Come On Ellah, 8-1 Morley Prince, 10-1 Pheasants Delight, 16-1 Hansel's Streak, Lunacar Lane.

FORM GUIDE - Old Hush Wing: Tracked leaders, hit 8th, headway and every chance when ran out 3 out in race won by For Cathal at Newcastle 3m nov hdl, Gd. Come On Ellah: Close up until weakened from 8th, 6th of 15, 32l behind Take Cover at Catterick 2m 3f nov hdl, Gd-Sft. Knayton Knight: Always chasing leaders, outpaced from 4 out, 5th of 13, 19l behind Noble Norman at Newcastle 2m 4f nov hdl, Gd. Morley Prince: Held up, effort 3 out, stayed on, no impression, 5th of 8, 6l behind Gus Berry at Catterick 2m NH Flat, Gd-Sft. Parting The Waves: Behind, headway under pressure 6th, never able to reach leaders, 8th of 13, 17l behind Stoneaby at Catterick 2m 3f nov hdl, Gd. Pheasants Delight: K-Battery mare, first foal of a modest hurdler.

1.20 J.WADE HAULAGE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
2m 1f £1,532 (9 declared)

201 120/00 Salinger (98) J Parkes 10-11-13 — S Ryan —
202 /P3-00 Spring Call (18) (C) C Pogson 8-10-7 — M Herrocks (3) —
203 -55406 Kierchem (14) C Grant 7-10-4 — C McCormack 87
204 SSP53/ Draandoona (628) P Beaumont 8-10-3 — B Grattan —
205 F0-002 One Stop (14) M Barnes 5-10-0 — S Taylor ● 90
206 40P0-R Canonbiebothered (97) M Pell 7-10-0 — M Newton (3) 85
207 3FP Another Picea (18) A J Lockwood 5-10-0 — E Husband —
208 000F0F Hya Prim (29) M Chamberlain 7-10-0 — B Harding ★ —
209 FU-PP4 Regal Jest (18) B Moray 8-10-0 — R Studholme (5) —

Betting: 11-10 One Stop, 6-1 Kierchem, 8-1 Salinger, Another Picea, 10-1 Draandoona, Regal Jest, 14-1 Spring Call, Hya Prim, 20-1 Canonbiebothered.

FORM GUIDE - Salinger: Led 2nd to 4th, soon lost place, 9th of 10, 41l behind Dan de Man at Newcastle 2m hcap hdl, Gd. One Stop: Always chasing winner, hit 2 out, kept on flat, 2nd of 7, 4l behind Opera Fan at Catterick 2m sell hcap hdle, Gd, with Kierchem (rec 11lb), soon tracking leaders, driven along 3 out, soon lost place, 5th of 7, 8l behind well behind. Canonbiebothered: Led from 2nd until ran out at the 5th in race won by Diabolo at Musselburgh 3m con hcap hdl, Gd. Another Picea: In rear, tailed off when pulled up 4 out in race won by Colour Code at M Rasen 2m 3f mdn hdl, Hvy.

1.50 RAMSIDE EVENT CATERING HANDICAP CHASE
3m 3f £2,798 (16 declared)

301 U22-51 Winter Belle (14) J Howard Johnson 10-12-0 — A Dobbin ● 90
302 4-2223 Peruvian Gale (14) Mrs S Smith 9-11-9 — R Guest 84
303 046-65 Heavenly Citizen (15) J Bladon 10-11-8 — C McCormack (5) 86
304 303-65 Fanney Glen (34) J J O'Neill 11-11-8 — P Carberry 85
305 /03-31 Sireric (18) (CD) S Bell 8-11-4 — M Smith 88
306 3-2514 Galen (28) (CD) (BF) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-2 — P Niven ★ 88
307 P44555 Magic Bloom (16) (C) J Jefferson 12-11-2 — E Callaghan 88
308 /3SFP- Leinthall Princess (306) J R Hughes 12-11-1 — Michael Brennan (3) —
309 PPSFP- Snook Point (284) D Lamb 11-10-13 — J Burke 86
310 0P052- Gale Water (308) T Dun 12-10-8 — T Reed 86
311 14-462 Workingforpeanuts (28) C Smith 8-10-5 — V Slattery 86
312 60-33P Dalen Marshall (28) J Wade 10-10-5 — A S Smith 84
313 0-5FF3 Dandy des Plauts (18) Mrs S Smith 7-10-2 — G F Ryan (5) 85
314 2-5065 Blue Cabelle (18) (CD) Mrs D Thomson 10-10-0 — L O'Hara ★ 83
315 41000U Pele Peep (14) (CD) J Upson 8-10-0 — R Supple —
316 P4P2-6 Millemoise (13) T Etherington 9-10-0 — L Wyer 81

Betting: 3-1 Winter Belle, 4-1 Sireric, 7-1 Peruvian Gale, Galen, 8-1 Workingforpeanuts, 12-1 Fanney Glen, Dandy Des Plauts.

FORM GUIDE - Winter Belle: Joined leaders 10th, led 3 out, soon clear, won at Catterick 3m 1f hcap ch, Gd, beating Sheela Led by 28l, with Peruvian Gale (gave 2lb), led 3rd to 12th, soon lost place, 3rd of 6, well behind. Fanney Glen: Raced wide, in touch until lost place 16th, tailed off 3 out, 5th of 6, well behind Majority Major at M Rasen 3m 4f hcap ch, Sft. Sireric: Soon tracking leaders, led 7th, stayed on strongly from 2 out, won at Sedgefield 3m 3f hcap ch, Sft, beating Todor Fellow by 15l. Gale Water: Headway to lead 3 out, headed last, ran on at one pace, 2nd of 7, 8l behind Off The Bru at Hexham 3m 1f hcap ch, Gd-Sft. Workingforpeanuts: Headway 14th, hit 3 out, stayed on strongly flat, 2nd of 16, 4l behind Hooded Hawk at Uttoxeter 3m hcap ch, Gd. Dandy Des Plauts: In touch, blundered 8th, kept on one pace from 2 out, 3rd of 8, 11l behind Baronstown at M Rasen 3m 1f hcap ch, Hvy.

2.20 EQUINAGE NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE
2m 5f £3,808 (16 declared)

401 0-5351 Danbys Gorse (19) (C) J Jefferson 6-11-10 — L Wyer 88
402 53-012 Desert Brave (18) Mrs S Smith 8-11-4 — R Guest 88
403 020-05 Lucheitt (18) J FitzGerald 7-11-3 — P Carberry —
404 03/423 Hallegrity (15) (BF) Mrs P Sly 9-11-3 — E Callaghan —
405 30-242 Global Legend (32) J Howard Johnson 8-11-1 — C McCormack (5) ★ —
406 R66/23 Breakwater Bay (18) M Hammond 10-11-0 — Mr C Bonner (5) 86
407 3U43-8 Norman (11) D Williams 7-10-13 — R Edwards ● 90
408 16-531 Corbinn (14) S Bell 8-10-10 — M Smith 87
409 1/60P Corinnaus Premiere (18) D Smith 7-10-8 — B Storey ★ 84
410 3PP-62 Dragons Bay (14) Mrs M Reveley 9-10-8 — P Niven 88
411 P-6453 Sniper (18) F Murtagh 8-10-7 — A Dobbin 84
412 F0DA2 Callernoy (18) D Lamb 8-10-7 — J Burke ● 90
413 08-244 Edelmas (27) J Curtis 8-10-4 — G Lee 84
414 364F52 Montilli (14) P Cheesbrough 8-10-4 — A S Smith 85
415 3P3-0F Court Jester (18) (C) H Alexander 6-10-3 — R McGrath (3) —
416 4/P0-P Cherry Orchid (37) J R Hughes 11-10-0 — Michael Brennan (3) —

Betting: 9-2 Danbys Gorse, 5-1 Callernoy, 11-2 Dragons Bay, 7-1 Desert Brave, Corbinn, 8-1 Global Legend, Breakwater Bay.

FORM GUIDE - Danbys Gorse: In touch, challenged 4 out, led 3 out, ridden clear, won at Wetherby 2m 4f hcap ch, Gd-Sft, beating Desert Brave (gave 1lb), close up, led 7th until 3 out, one pace, 2nd btn 13l, and Breakwater Bay (rec 3lb), led after 2nd until 7th, weakened approaching 4 out, 3rd of 5, distance well behind. Global Legend: Chased leaders, challenged 4 out, soon ridden, kept on same pace from 2 out, 2nd of 7, 3l behind Desert Brave [illegible] at Doncaster 2m nov hcap ch, Gd. Corbinn: With leaders, challenging when hit 4 out, led last, held on, won at Catterick 2m 3f nov hcap chs, Gd, beating Dragons Bay (level), led 4 out, ridden and mistake when headed last, not quicken towards finish, 2nd of 6. Callernoy: Mistakes, stayed on under pressure from 2 out, no impression, 2nd of 13, 3l behind Chipped Out at Sedgefield 2m 5f nov ch, Sft, with Corinnaus Premiere (rec 3lb), mistakes, soon chasing leaders, lost place 12th pulled up 3 out. Sniper: Always prominent, headway to challenge 14th, ridden and weakened from 4 out, 3rd of 15, 8l behind Prince Example at Catterick 3m 1f nov ch, Gd-Sft. Edelmas: In touch, driven along 4 out, kept on, never able to challenge, 4th of 12, 8l behind Joe Jagger at Catterick 2m 3f nov ch, Gd. Montilli: In touch, outpaced approaching 3 out, stayed on well flat, 2nd of 10, 13l behind Arthur Bee at Catterick 3m nov ch, Gd.

2.50 MAINSFORTH NOVICE CHASE
2m 5f £3,066 (16 declared)

501 64-221 Prince Example (13) M Todhunter 7-11-11 — P Carberry ● 90
502 0 All The Gas (27) Mrs A Naughton 7-11-4 — Mr T J Barry (7) —
503 5-UP6 Apache Raider (18) F Murphy 6-11-4 — E Callaghan ★ 82
504 4-2222 Eirespray (18) Mrs S Smith 7-11-4 — R Guest 89
505 P4-2P5 Flat Top (16) M W Easterby 7-11-4 — N Garrity 84
506 8F-PP Forever Shy (18) Mrs K Lamb 10-11-4 — Miss S Lamb (7) —
507 P413-4 Hardidecent (18) (CD) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-4 — P Niven 76
508 0000/ Honeycombing (28) S Kettlewell 8-11-4 — B Storey —
509 08/ Little Timber (1061) N Mason 8-11-4 — L O'Hara —
510 2F05/P Old Ale (88) (C) J Curtis 8-11-4 — G Lee ★ —
511 0050/ Out By Night (88) B M Moore 7-11-4 — R Harding —
512 215P-5 Paperising (15) (CD) G Richards 8-11-4 — A Dobbin 88
513 /P04-8 Restless (228) J Wade 9-11-4 — A S Smith 86
514 12-00P Santa Jet (13) G M Moore 7-11-4 — J Callaghan —
515 02P0/4 Silken Stalker (18) (CD) Mrs A Swinbank 10-11-4 — J Supple 81
516 0-3 The Wasp (26) J Howard Johnson 8-11-4 — Mr C Bonner (5) 87

Betting: 3-1 Prince Example, 7-2 Eirespray, 9-2 Paperising, 7-1 Flat Top, Hardidecent, 12-1 Silken Stalker, 14-1 The Wasp.

FORM GUIDE - Prince Example: Jumped well, made all, clear from 3 out, eased flat, won at Catterick 3m 1f mdn ch, Gd-Sft, beating Allerback by 7l. All The Gas: Lost touch from halfway, 7th of 15, 33l behind Take Cover at Catterick 2m 3f nov hdl, Gd-Sft. Eirespray: Always prominent, led 3 out to flat, unable to quicken, 2nd of 10, 13l behind Occold at Huntingdon 2m 4f nov ch, Gd-Sft. Flat Top: Chased leader, hit 5th, weakened from 4 out, 5th of 7, 30l behind Inglesonian at Carlisle 2m hcap ch, Sft. Hardidecent: Held up and behind, never placed to challenge, 4th of 10, 33l behind Dawn Mission at Sedgefield 2m 5f nov ch, Gd. Paperising: In touch, outpaced 11th, no impression after, 5th of 12, 33l behind Celestial Choir at Carlisle 2m 4f nov ch, Sft, with Apache Raider (level), mistakes, behind, headway 10th, never dangerous, 6th of 12, btn 37l. Restless: Mistake 6th, always behind, tailed off from 12th, 6th of 7, well behind Unitthen at Perth 3m nov ch, Gd-Fm.

3.20 MARSKE NOVICE HURDLE (DIV 2)
2m 5f 110yds £2,285 (12 declared)

601 0/4-40 Elsed (18) J Norton 7-11-6 — G Lee 85
602 40-5 Jack Robbo (71) J FitzGerald 6-11-6 — M A Fitzgerald —
603 023 Kalasadi (18) J Howard Johnson 7-11-6 — A S Smith ● 90
604 PPP15/ Kenslee Lad (648) (B) Mrs V Ward 8-11-6 — Michael Brennan (3) —
605 P51-5 Pleasedespunch (44) Mrs J Storey 6-11-6 — Mr C Storey 84
606 0 Rusk (18) T Easterby 5-11-6 — L Wyer 83
607 2FUP-0 Ship The Builder (18) C Grant 9-11-6 — R Supple ★ —
608 4- Simon Says (678) J J Quinn 8-11-6 — E Callaghan —
609 2 Tindles Bible (18) M Todhunter 6-11-6 — P Carberry 88
610 0PPP- Gallic Point (284) D Lamb 7-11-1 — J Burke —
611 P-P See More Castles (18) G A Harker 7-11-1 — B Harding —
612 Strathan Gold (F165) Mrs M Reveley 4-10-7 — P Niven —

Betting: 7-4 Tindles Bible, 11-2 Kalasadi, 13-2 Jack Robbo, Rusk, 7-1 Strathan Gold, 12-1 Elsed, Pleasedespunch, 16-1 Others.

FORM GUIDE - Elsed: In touch, outpaced 4 out, no impression after, 7th of 13, 22l behind Ardent Scout at Wetherby 2m 4f nov hcap hdle, Sft. Jack Robbo: Headway 6f out, every chance 2f out, unable to quicken, 5th of 16, 7l behind Bramblehill Duke at Haydock 2m NH Flat, Gd. Kalasadi: Chased leaders, ridden 3 out, weakened approaching next, 3rd of 7, 32l behind Blesdale at Sedgefield 3m 3f nov hdl, Sft. Rusk: Headway halfway, chasing leaders 6th, lost place from 3 out, 10th of 15, well behind Justin Mac at Wetherby 2m nov hdl, Sft. Tindles Bible: Held up, headway 4 out, kept on run-in, promising, 2nd of 7, 13l behind Easby Joker at Ayr 2m 4f nov hdl, Sft.

3.50 REDCAR HANDICAP HURDLE
2m 5f 110yds £2,303 (9 declared)

1 FP-PP1 Easby Joker (18) S Kettlewell 10-11-10 — M A Fitzgerald 88
2 3141-4 Hallelosfalls (16) L Lungo 10-11-4 — W Dowling (7) 86
3 /6-U13 Noble Norman (13) Mrs M Reveley 7-10-13 — P Niven 83
4 6-5T14 Kinda Groovy (18) (CD) I Park 9-10-12 — M Smith ★ 88
5 058/0P Zamhareer (58) W Storey 7-10-7 — P Carberry —
6 31-332 Stylish Interval (19) (C) (D) D Smith 6-10-6 — A Dobbin ● 90
7 422-45 Sosene (88) Mrs M Reveley 5-10-5 — G Lee 88
8 2216F Whitechapel Lad (18) (CD) Mrs A Swinbank 8-10-0 — J Supple —
9 3013-0 One More Dime (18) (B) J R Hughes 8-10-0 — Michael Brennan (3) 84

Betting: 3-1 Stylish Interval, 4-1 Kinda Groovy, 9-2 Easby Joker, 5-1 Sosene, 11-2 Hallelosfalls, 7-1 Noble Norman

● Ask Tom will miss the Victor Chandler Chase at Ascot on Saturday after failing to please trainer Tom Tate in his work. His absence means the weights will rise by a minimum of 11lb.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Jockeys	1st	Runs	%	Level St	Trainers	1st	Runs	%	Level St
P Niven	52	172	30.2	+19.45	Mrs M Reveley	67	233	28.8	+29.89
L Wyer	22	107	20.6	+57.45	J H Johnson	20	163	12.3	-92.20
A Maguire	18	77	23.4	-8.40	G M Moore	19	114	16.7	-49.89
A Dobbin	15	143	10.5	-78.88	J Wade	15	165	9.13	-85.95
J Supple	14	73	19.2	-4.45	P Beaumont	14	74	18.9	-1.93
M Smith	14	93	15.1	+29.03	Denys Smith	13	76	17.1	-23.52
J Callaghan	14	97	14.4	-50.41	J J O'Neill	10	54	18.5	-28.24

Folkestone runners and riders

	TONY PALEY	TOP FORM
1.00	Poker School	Supremism
1.30	All Clear	Cool Spot
2.00	Weather Wise	Cadbury Castle
2.30	Brogeen Lady	Brave Highlander
3.00	Wadada	Ellmalnside
3.30	Barristers Boy	Bank Avenue
4.00	Crazy Crusader	

Undulating, right-handed circuit of 1m3f; 220yds run-in on chase course, hurdles 250yds run-in. Not particularly suitable for the long-striding galloper.
Going: Hurdles: Soft, Good to Soft in places; Chase: Good to soft. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Long distance travellers: Karicleigh Man (1.30), Alpine Joker (3.00) & Ragamuff (3.30) P Hobbs, Somerset 228 miles. Wesley's Lad (1.00), Fishlee's First (2.00) & Wadada (3.00) D Burchell, Gwent 225 miles. Bally Clover (2.30) Miss V Williams, H'ford & Worc 201 miles.
Seven day winners: None.
Blinkered first time: None. Visored: 1.30 Challenger Row.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. F-Flat.

1.00 VALENTINE GORTON JUVENILE MAIDEN HURDLE 4YO
2m 1f 110yds £2,610 (13 declared)

1 F46 Foreign Rule (41) J Jenkins 11-5 — A P McCoy 80
2 0 Golden Saddle (28) D Wintle 11-5 — R Bellamy —
3 Master Bobby (F57) R Flower 11-5 — J K McCarthy (7) —
4 55 Oriental Style (25) G Balding 11-5 — B Clifford 88
5 5 Poker School (34) N Callaghan 11-5 — G Bradley 87
6 Polyphony (F217) D O'Brien 11-5 — W Marston —
7 Reward (F216) C Mann 11-5 — R Dunwoody —
8 5 Supremism (30) Mrs D Haine 11-5 — N Williamson ● 90
9 44 The Negotiator (30) M Heaton-Ellis 11-5 — B Powell 88
10 04 Wesley's Lad (41) D Burchell 11-5 — D J Burchell 86
11 Interregnum (F165) Miss C Hicks 11-0 — L Aspell (3) —
12 Miss Mezzanine (F138) Miss L Bower 11-0 — W McFarland —
13 Silver Sands (F467) T McGovern 11-0 — M Batchelor (7) —

Betting: 11-4 Supremism, 7-2 The Negotiator, 9-2 Poker School, 11-2 Reward, 7-1 Foreign Rule, 8-1 Oriental Style, 14-1 Wesley's Lad.

1.30 MANSTON NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE
2m £2,924 (12 declared)

1 2/3P-R Sierra Bay (14) O Sherwood 8-12-0 — J A McCarthy —
2 110F2/ Head For Heaven (870) R Hoad 8-11-11 — J F Titley —
3 1P-655 Nordic Spree (13) G L Moore 6-11-1 — A P McCoy ★ —
4 /300F0 Miss Welmans News (13) G L Moore 8-10-8 — D Gallagher —
5 00-F65 Georgetown (28) J Gifford 7-10-8 — P Hide 88
6 -63343 All Clear (18) R Alner 7-10-5 — P Holley 88
7 2/PP-0 Karicleigh Man (40) P Hobbs 8-10-4 — S Tenney —
8 26-060 Black Welshes (88) J Bridger 10-10-3 — J Goldstein (3) —
9 4530P3 Joker Jack (32) R Dean 13-10-0 — T Dascombe —
10 /P-542 Cool Spot (25) G Enright 10-10-0 — R Bellamy ● 90
11 PP/500 Challenger Row (14) (D) Mrs L Jewell 8-10-0 — B Powell ★ —
12 00-U Philbelia (35) J Fitch-Heyes 8-10-0 — B Fenton —

Betting: 6-4 Sierra Bay, 7-2 All Clear, 4-1 Cool Spot, 10-1 Head For Heaven, Karicleigh Man, 12-1 Nordic Spree, Georgetown.

Trainer watch

Horses having their first run for a new trainer today — Folkestone: 1.00 Interregnum, A Foster to Miss C Hicks; Miss Mezzanine, E Wheeler to Miss L Bower; Polyphony, R Charlton to D O'Brien; Reward, P Cole to C Mann; 2.00 Boney, J Muldoon to D Wintle; 3.00 Hawthorne Glen, Mrs M Long to J Long; 4.00 Albertina, C James to E James; Duchess of Erenyn, R Curtis to D Morris.
Sedgefield: 12.50 Hansel's Streak, T Cuthbert to F Murtagh; 1.50 Leinthall Princess, J Needham to J Hughes; 2.50 Honeycombing, M Barnes to S Kettlewell; 3.20 Simon Says, R Craggs to J Quinn.
Wolverhampton: 2.10 Changed To Baileys, J Berry to R Juckes; 3.40 Ebbsaat, M Heaton-Ellis to R Juckes.

2.00 NORTH FORELAND SELLING HURDLE
2m 1f 110yds £1,604 (12 declared)

1 361301 Weather Wise (19) W G M Turner 6-12-3 — R Dunwoody 86
2 024-61 Adilov (14) J Bridger 6-11-10 — M Batchelor (7) 88
3 FP-P4 Joctor Don (38) J S Moore 6-11-3 — Mr S Durack (5) 84
4 0-5P26 Mega Tid (F35) J Poulton 6-11-3 — J Magee 83
5 5- Maylough Rebel (424) J Long 5-11-3 — D Gallagher —
6 Boney (F161) D Wintle 5-10-12 — W Marston —
7 U Burning Flame (36) R Flower 5-10-12 — J K McCarthy (7) —
8 FP-455 North End Lady (38) Mrs L Jewell 7-10-12 — Mr Edgar Byrne (7) 88
9 040-60 Sweet Little Briar (58) G Enright 7-10-12 — R Thornton 88
10 0-P5P0 Wild Nettle (8) Miss C Hicks 7-10-12 — L Aspell (3) —
11 F0 Fishlee's First (28) D Burchell 4-10-5 — D J Burchell —
12 43 Cadbury Castle (28) G Charles-Jones 4-10-0 — X Aizpuru (5) ● 90

Betting: 3-1 Cadbury Castle, 7-2 Adilov, 4-1 Weather Wise, 13-2 Joctor Don, Mega Tid, 8-1 North End Lady, Sweet Little Briar.

2.30 KENT HANDICAP CHASE
3m 2f £4,024 (9 declared)

1 3121P- Bally Clover (228) (CD) (BF) Miss V Williams 11-12-0 — R Williamson 86
2 /15P1- Credo Is King (223) P R Webber 8-11-8 — A Thornton 88
3 514/U1 Brave Highlander (28) (D) J Gifford 10-11-6 — P Hide ● 90
4 411-24 Flippance (32) (CD) (BF) N Gaselee 8-11-5 — C Llewellyn 88
5 5121-2 Brogeen Lady (15) (D) D Gandolfo 8-11-0 — R Dunwoody 88
6 200-01 Big Ben Dun (38) (CD) E L James 12-10-9 — J R Kavanagh 88
7 P1-341 Ocean Leader (18) (D) Mrs D Haine 11-10-8 — R Johnson 88
8 1-4333 Lay It Off (14) J O'Neill 8-10-0 — L Aspell (3) 84
9 /1-5P5 Tinkmell (28) R Alner 8-10-0 — R Thornton 82

Betting: 4-1 Brave Highlander, 9-2 Ocean Leader, 11-2 Credo Is King, 13-2 Bally Clover, Flippance, Brogeen Lady, 7-1 Big Ben Dun.

3.00 H.B.L.B. GOODWINS HANDICAP HURDLE
2m 1f 110yds £2,026 (12 declared)

1 35/44- Hawthorne Glen (388) (CD) (BF) J Long 11-11-12 — B Fenton 86
2 PP2114 Ainsi Soit Il (13) (CD) (BF) G McCourt 7-11-12 — Guy Lewis (5) ★ 84
3 34-553 Wadada (28) D Burchell 7-11-8 — D J Burchell 88
4 52-0FF Absolute Limit (28) J Gifford 6-11-8 — P Hide 83
5 364-36 Sally's Twins (15) (BF) N Chance 5-11-6 — M Scales (7) 86
6 520-13 Alpine Joker (31) P Hobbs 5-11-4 — R Dunwoody 87
7 245-13 August Twelfth (25) (CD) D O'Brien 10-10-13 — Mr S Durack (5) 88
8 -00141 Secret Gift (35) (D) Mrs J Pitman 5-10-11 — D Leahy ★ 87
9 D14-P Yacsley Jester (25) D Grissell 6-10-8 — J R Kavanagh 84
10 56P/0- Kralna Garden (434) T Casey 6-10-7 — W Marston —
11 -65232 Carrolls Rock (19) C Mann 7-10-6 — J Magee (5) 88
12 5P4- Ellmalnside (F231) D O'Brien 5-10-0 — R Thornton ● 90

Betting: 4-1 Secret Gift, 5-1 Ainsi Soit Il, 11-2 Alpine Joker, 6-1 August Twelfth, Carrolls Rock, 7-1 Wadada, 8-1 Absolute Limit.

3.30 CANTERBURY HANDICAP CHASE
2m 5f £2,713 (11 declared)

1 -F4143 High Learie (20) A H Harvey 8-11-13 — J A McCarthy 88
2 1FAU56 San Fernando (44) (D) J Gifford 12-11-13 — P Hide —
3 U-43SP Bank Avenue (15) M Pitman 7-11-3 — W Marston ● 90
4 00-326 Well Armed (16) J Bennett 7-11-0 — W McFarland ★ 84
5 /0-025 Barristers Boy (37) (BF) J Old 8-10-10 — C Llewellyn 85
6 /30242 Ragamuff (28) (BF) P Hobbs 7-10-7 — R Dunwoody 88
7 605424 Glen Mirage (38) (D) M Coombe 13-10-6 — Miss M Coombe 85
8 5/40-4 First Instance (44) D Grissell 8-10-1 — J R Kavanagh 85
9 -23P30 Black Statement (18) J Gifford 8-10-0 — L Aspell (3) 88
10 50-4P6 One More Man (29) Miss L Bower 7-10-0 — Mr R Wakley (5) 84
11 05P-63 Benji (28) T Casey 7-10-0 — T J Murphy —

Betting: 3-1 Ragamuff, 5-1 High Learie, 11-2 Barristers Boy, 6-1 Bank Avenue, 7-1 Glen Mirage, 8-1 San Fernando, Well Armed, Black Statement.

4.00 ASHFORD MARES' ONLY STANDARD NH FLAT RACE
2m 1f 110yds £1,203 (12 declared)

1 5-6 Achill Rambler (19) D Nicholson 5-11-4 — R Massey (5)
2 0-0 Albertina (200) E L James 6-11-4 — M Berry (7)
3 Ardentinny N Henderson 5-11-4 — T Hagger (7)
4 2 Crazy Crusader (38) D Gandolfo 6-11-4 — Mr S Durack (5)
5 Duchess of Erenyn D Morris 5-11-4 — M Batchelor (7)
6 0-0 Fresh Rose Mary (44) J S Moore 6-11-4 — J Magee (5)
7 Lucy Walters Mrs D Haine 6-11-4 — R Thornton
8 0 My Dawn (44) C Morlock 5-11-4 — D J Kavanagh (5)
9 Seventh Wave R Rowe 6-11-4 — A Garrity (7)
10 T And Orange R Curtis 6-11-4 — J Parkhouse (7)
11 32- Traceytown (318) G Balding 6-11-4 — Mr J Thatcher
12 Penny Appeal J Mullins 4-10-6 — David Turner (7)

Betting: 5-4 Crazy Crusader, 4-1 Ardentinny, 11-2 Achill Rambler, 13-2 Traceytown, 12-1 Lucy Walters, 14-1 My Dawn, Seventh Wave.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Jockeys	1st	Runs	%	Level St	Trainers	1st	Runs	%	Level St
M A Fitzgerald	10	48	20.8	-12.57	J T Gifford	16	65	24.6	+15.52
D Bridgwater	8	24	33.3	+1.45	D M Grissell	9	61	14.8	+1.46
R Dunwoody	8	47	17	-12.60	N J Henderson	8	25	32.8	-0.07
P Hide	7	42	16.7	-15.72	R Rowe	7	60	11.7	-0.88
B Fenton	6	24	25	+8.13	R H Alner	6	34	17.6	-9.64
N Williamson	6	39	15.4	-10.08	T P McGovern	4	16	25.6	+5.10
A P McCoy	6	41	14.6	-10.52	Miss V Williams	3	4	75.0	+22.75

Wolverhampton all-weather card

	TONY PALEY	TOP FORM
1.10	Time To Fly	Imp Express
1.40	Polar Mist	Polar Mist
2.10	Palacegate Jack	Palacegate Jack
2.40	Avanti Blue	La Menorquina
3.10	Onefortheditch	Onefortheditch
3.40	Anonym	Anonym
4.10	General Equation	Featherstone Lane

All-weather, Fibresand track, left-handed, of just under 1m with run-in of 380yds. Sharp bends.
Going: Standard. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Draw: No advantage.
Long distance travellers: Mystical Ridge (1.40), Maydoro (2.10), Snappy Times (2.10) & Henry The Hawk (1.10) M Dods, Co Durham 162 miles.
Seven day winners: 1.10 Time To Fly, Imp Express; 3.40 Anonym, Ebbsaat; 4.10 General Equation.
Blinkered first time: 4.10 The Fed. Visored: None.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. J-Jumps.

1.10 COGNAC HANDICAP (DIV 1)
5f £2,814 (8 declared)

1 (3) 0000-6 Chemcast (7) (B) J Eyre 5-10-0 — R Lappin ★ 85
2 (1) 3052-1 Time To Fly (7) (6lb ex) (CD) B Murray 5-9-2 — G Bardwell (3) ★ 88
3 (6) 13140- Beechwood Quest (147) (D) B Rothwell 3-8-8 — L Charnock ★ 86
4 (4) 38655- Henry The Hawk (136) (D) M Dods 7-8-3 — R Winston (5) ★ 85
5 (7) 0052-1 Imp Express (7) (6lb ex) (CD) P Felgate 5-7-13 — Dale Gibson ● 90
6 (8) 0000-3 Little Ibnr (7) (CD) P Cundell 7-7-11 — J Lowe ★ —
7 (5) 503-33 Hiltons Executive (4) (BF) E Alston 4-7-10 — J Quinn 87
8 (2) 0300-3 Young Ben (8) (D) J Wainwright 6-7-10 — A McCarthy (7) ★ 88

Betting: 5-2 Imp Express, 7-2 Time To Fly, 9-2 Hiltons Executive, 11-2 Beechwood Quest, 13-2 Little Ibnr, 8-1 Young Ben, 10-1 Henry The Hawk, 14-1 Chemcast.

1.40 MALIBU MAIDEN STAKES 3YO
6f £3,485 (8 declared)

1 (3) 4-6 Dryad (4) N Littmoden 9-0 — S Whitworth 85
2 (8) 3504- Euro Venture (F49) D Nicholls 9-0 — Alex Greaves 87
3 (5) 00- Mystical Ridge (76) M Dods 9-0 — Dale Gibson —
4 (6) 2- Polar Mist (38) Sir M Prescott 9-0 — S Sanders ● 90
5 (2) 0- Prince of Saba (78) K McAuliffe 9-0 — W J O'Connor —
6 (4) 305- Farndon Princess (128) R Hollinshead 8-9 — A Culhane 88
7 (7) 0- Saba's Joy (118) C Allen 8-9 — Martin Dwyer —
8 (1) 0-6 Sea Fig (7) T Barron 8-9 — T Sprake 84

Betting: 4-6 Polar Mist, 5-2 Euro Venture, 8-1 Farndon Princess, 14-1 Dryad, 16-1 Sea Fig, 25-1 Prince Of Saba, Saba's Joy, 33-1 Mystical Ridge.

2.10 CHINA CLAIMING STAKES
6f £2,085 (13 declared)

1 (13) 4210-2 Palacegate Jack (8) (D) (BF) J Berry 7-10-0 — C Lowther (3) ★ ● 90
2 (11) 3043-2 Mike's Double (7) (CD) Gay Kelleway 4-9-10 — R Hughes ★ 88
3 (2) 10500- C-Harry (68) R Hollinshead 4-9-8 — F Lynch 87
4 (8) 0602-3 Ultra Beat (8) (CD) (BF) P Haslam 6-9-8 — P Goode (7) 89
5 (5) 5/600- Changed To Baileys (219) R Juckes 4-9-7 — A Culhane —
6 (1) 0/00-0 Bright Lady (8) D Nicholls 4-9-5 — Alex Greaves —
7 (6) 00000- Lalgo Crofter (64) (C) (D) P Cundell 9-9-5 — S Drowne ★ —
8 (7) 0/0-00 Slightly Oliver (7) D Williams 4-9-4 — R Adams ★ —
9 (4) 006-50 Mi La High (4) (D) M Meade 5-9-3 — Dean McKeown 87
10 (12) 6065-3 Moon Song (8) A Jarvis 4-9-3 — A McGlone 84
11 (3) Enthses Moore J Eyre 4-9-1 — R Lappin —
12 (10) 00508- Maydoro (165) M Dods 5-9-1 — A Clark —
13 (9) 42431- Snappy Times (188) (CD) M Dods 3-8-10 — Dale Gibson 82

Betting: 3-1 Ultra Beat, 4-1 Palacegate Jack, 5-1 Mike's Double, 13-2 C-Harry, Moon Song, 7-1 Mi La High, 8-1 Maydoro.

2.40 JERICHO HANDICAP
1m 6f 166yds £2,762 (10 declared)

1 (1) 4603-0 Premier Dance (11) (CD) D Haydn Jones 11-10-0 — Joeleen Richards (7) 88
2 (10) 1840-3 Pelestia (6) (CD) J Pearce 6-9-11 — M Wigham 88
3 (8) 30600- Grand Cru (J13) J Cullinan 7-9-8 — R Hughes 85
4 (6) 02252- La Menorquina (J42) (C) D Marks 8-8-13 — S Sanders ● 90
5 (5) 30/60- Rajah (37) (C) C Thornton 5-8-12 — Dean McKeown —
6 (3) 2325-1 Avanti Blue (13) K McAuliffe 4-8-9 — Dane O'Neill 88
7 (9) 44005- Nomax Lad (J38) M Meade 10-8-5 — J Bramhill ★ —
8 (4) 85000/ Lord Nitrogen (J18) B Llewellyn 8-8-0 — T Williams —
9 (2) 0265-0 Drama King (8) (C) B Llewellyn 6-7-10 — J Quinn ★ 87
10 (7) 200-04 Understudy (6) R Hollinshead 4-7-10 — A McCarthy (7) 85

Betting: *9-4 Avanti Blue, 7-2 Pelestia, 4-1 La Menorquina, 7-1 Premier Dance, Understudy, 10-1 Drama King,* 12-1 Rajah, Nomax Lad.

3.10 JAFFA HANDICAP
1m 1f 79yds £3,404 (7 declared)

1 (1) 6365-2 Rambo Waltzer (12) (C) D Nicholls 6-8-10 — Alex Greaves 84
2 (3) 00102- Onefortheditch (32) (CD) J Fanshawe 5-9-6 — T Sprake ● 90
3 (4) 10400- Three Arch Bridge (19) (D) M Johnston 5-8-4 — Dean McKeown ★ 84
4 (2) 4015-2 Scaltach (8) (C) R Hollinshead 5-8-3 — F Lynch 88
5 (7) 08000- Scaz Tornado (67) E Alston 5-8-2 — C Lowther (3) 82
6 (5) 00800- In Good Faith (J165) J J Quinn 8-8-3 — J Quinn 81
7 (6) 14101- Colles Choice (18) (CD) J Spearing 4-8-0 — P Bradley (7) 86

Betting: 5-2 Onefortheditch, 3-1 Rambo Waltzer, 7-2 Colles Choice, 5-1 Scaltach, 8-1 Three Arch Bridge.

3.40 BASIL SELLING STAKES
1m 100yds £1,738 (8 declared)

1 (5) 0000-1 Anonym (7) (CB) J Eyre 8-9-5 — O Pears ★ ● 88
2 (3) 0656-1 Ebbsaat (7) (CB) R Juckes 7-9-5 — A Clark 87
3 (2) 2000-0 Ashgore (8) (C) T Caldwell 8-9-0 — D Wright 85
4 (4) 4020-6 Don't Worry Mike (7) J Spearing 4-9-0 — S Righton (7) ★ 83
5 (6) 04300- Failed To Hit (18) N Littmoden 5-9-0 — K Pierrepont (7) ★ 83
6 (8) 50000/ Jaita (J18) W Jenks 8-9-0 — J Stack —
7 (1) 0505-3 Loch Style (7) (CB) R Hollinshead 5-9-0 — F Lynch 80
8 (8) 61000- Flood's Hot Stuff (36) (B) N Littmoden 4-9-0 — S Whitworth ★ —

Betting: 2-1 Anonym, 5-2 Ebbsaat, 13-2 Loch Style, 7-1 Failed To Hit, 8-1 Ashgore, 10-1 Don't Worry Mike

4.10 COGNAC HANDICAP (DIV 2)
5f £2,697 (8 declared)

1 (1) 8032-4 Ramsey Hope (4) (CD) C Fairhurst 5-9-13 — L Charnock ★ 87
2 (2) 0202-2 Aljaz (7) (CD) Gay Kelleway 8-9-10 — Dane O'Neill 88
3 (4) 0064-2 Featherstone Lane (4) (CD) Miss L Siddall 7-8-5 — Dean McKeown ● 90
4 (6) 04000- Belly (222) (CD) B Baugh 6-8-1 — T Williams 83
5 (5) 000-61 General Equation (4) (6lb ex) (CD) J Balding 5-7-11 — N Carlisle ★ 88
6 (3) 880- Newtons Corner (173) D Nicholls 4-7-10 — F Norton —
7 (8) 08065- Soaked (37) D Chapman 5-7-10 — A McCarthy (7) ★ 86
8 (7) /0004- The Fed (28) (D) J Eyre 8-7-10 — A Nicholls (7) ★ 84

Betting: 3-1 Aljaz, 7-2 Featherstone Lane, General Equation, 11-2 Ramsey Hope, The Fed, 8-1 Newtons Corner, Soaked, 25-1 Belly.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Jockeys	1st	Runs	%	Level St	Trainers	1st	Runs	%	Level St
J Weaver	58	276	21	+39.15	R Hollinshead	60	584	10.3	-194.29
S Sanders	38	327	11.6	-48.24	M Johnston	53	242	21.9	+23.78
L Dettori	32	157	20.4	-36.92	J Berry	43	298	14.4	-103.21
G Carter	31	224	13.8	-44.19	P C Haslam	34	192	17.7	+10.10
G Duffield	28	188	14.9	-23.91	M Prescott	26	112	23.2	-4.73
K Darley	26	105	24.8	+30.45	J L Eyre	22	133	16.5	+14.05
F Lynch	25	246	10.2	-83.54	D Haydn Jones	19	204	9.35	-43.50

Results

LINGFIELD

1.00 (1m 2f): 1, SEA DANZIG, R Studholme (7-2); 2, Quiet Arch (9-4 Jt Fav); 3, Jubilee Scholar (9-4 Jt Fav). 5 ran. 3½, 5. (J Bridger). Tote: £3.80; £2.30, £1.70. Dual F: £2.70. CSF: £10.79. NR: Chairmans Choice.

1.30 (1m 5f): 1, TIME CAN TELL, Dean McKeown (11-4); 2, English Invader (11-4); 3, Night City (5-4 Fav). 5 ran. 5, 1¾. (J Payne). Tote: £3.10; £1.50, £1.10. Dual F: £4.50. CSF: £9.94.

2.00 (7f): 1, RECOGNITION, Amanda Sanders (5-1); 2, Figawin (3-1); 3, Lady Lapierosig (6-5 Fav). 8 ran. 5, 3½. (M Polglase). Tote: £7.00; £1.30, £1.90, £1.10. Dual F: £13.50. CSF: £19.57.

2.30 (6f): 1, SOUND THE TRUMPET, J Bramhill (20-1); 2, Friendly Brave (7-2 Co Fav); 3, Half Tone (7-2 Co Fav). 7-2 Co Fav Plein Gaz. 9 ran. 5, 1¾. (R Spicer). Tote: £17.00; £2.30, £1.60, £1.50. Dual Forecast: £138.20. CSF: £85.85. Tricast: £288.28. Trio: £113.30.

3.00 (1m): 1, DIAMOND DRILL, A Clark (8-13 Fav); 2, Blue Shadow (3-1); 3, Comeonthebaforg (14-1). 5 ran. 1¾, 1¼. (P Makin). Tote: £1.50; £1.50, £1.10. Dual F: £1.90. CSF: £2.69.

3.30 (6f): 1, VISTA ALEGRE, A Clark (6-5 Jt Fav); 2, Mary Cornwallis (6-5 Jt Fav); 3, Castle Ashby Jack (6-1). 4 ran. 1¾, 2¾. (P Makin). Tote: £2.20. Dual F: £1.10. CSF: £2.67.

JACKPOT: Not won. £15,758.48 carried forward to Sedgefield today.
PLACEPOT: £16.50.
QUADPOT: £3.90.

KEEPING TRACK
0891 222 +

	COMMENTARY	RESULTS
FOLKESTONE	771	781
SEDGEFIELD	772	782
WOLVERHAMPTON	773	783

ALL COURSES COMMENTARY 0891 222 780
ALL COURSES RESULTS 0891 222 790
CALLS COST 50P PER MIN AT ALL TIMES. TIS PLC, AVALON HOUSE, LONDON EC2A 4PJ.
The Guardian INTERACTIVE

Football

Anfield act on Friedel redundancy

Ian Ross

LIVERPOOL are ready to sell their United States international goalkeeper Brad Friedel, possibly to the Scottish champions Rangers, only three weeks after winning the right to sign him.

Friedel's career at Anfield may well prove a good deal shorter than his protracted battle to gain a work permit to play in England. Now he appears likely to lose that permit without appearing in Liverpool's first team.

If he wished, he could spend the next three years picking up a Liverpool pay packet without working. He could remain on the payroll until his current deal expires in 2001 because his contract, signed late last month, has no clause covering his unavailability for selection.

He and his advisers met the Liverpool manager Roy Evans yesterday but the talks were thought unlikely to produce a positive conclusion.

A £1 million buy from the US League club Columbus Crew to replace the inconsistent England international David James, Friedel believed his promotion to Liverpool's senior side was inevitable.

Instead Evans unexpectedly opted to stand by James, despite being told that Friedel would be required to figure in at least 75 per cent of Liverpool's first-team fixtures between his arrival and the end of the season to qualify for a permit renewal in July. Friedel will have to displace James against Newcastle at Anfield next Tuesday night at the latest to have any chance of meeting the government's strict criteria on appearances.

The Rangers manager Walter Smith may now renew his interest after trying to lure Friedel to Glasgow last month at a point when the player's fight for an English permit seemed doomed to failure.

Friedel would need a new work permit to play for the Ibrox club but that should not be a problem: Scotland's system is based on the number of non-European Union players appearing in the Scottish league and at present that quota is far from full.

FA is told to get back to governing

Martin Thorpe

THE Football Association has been told to "get back to governing the game" or risk more corruption scandals. A specially commissioned report released yesterday criticised the FA for not being tough enough on such matters as bung allegations, inflated ticket prices and club owners who go into football for personal financial gain.

The first test of the FA's reaction will come next week when it announces whether it will punish those criticised in the Premier League bung inquiry report and, if so, how severely. Its chief executive Graham Kelly said yesterday: "We will name names if there is sufficient evidence against anyone."

Sir John Smith, author of the commissioned report and a former deputy commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, was asked by the FA to compile his report, Football — Its Values, Finances and Reputation, after the release of the bung report last year. He is particularly critical of the FA for not having its own investigatory arm to look into wrongdoing speedily.

"The FA has never thought it necessary to be proactive," he said, "and I am extremely surprised it has come this far without the structure to deal quickly and effectively with problems. Those who hold the power in football should make every effort either to prevent or prosecute and punish miscreants, especially when corruption seems to have occurred."

Although the FA executive committee must rule on the report, Kelly agreed that changes needed to be made. "The FA has always said we are not a police force. There has to be some form of policing. There has been a gradual awareness that we cannot rely on old rules and procedures."

Another of the report's recommendations is a code of conduct, to which all in the game would sign up.

The report expresses particular concern at the mismanagement of certain clubs. "It has brought some to the edge of extinction and destroyed others," says Sir John. "Some people see football clubs as a way of making significant amounts of money. Given the absence of controls, there is nothing to prevent those people being in control of football clubs." He suggests "no person should own more than 10 per cent of the stock in a club".

FA Cup, third round



Perry scope ... but Wrexham's Roberts has the more commanding view at the Racecourse Ground last night ROSS KINNAIRD

Replay: Wrexham 2, Wimbledon 3

Hughes brace turns tables

Stephen Bierley

DESPITE taking an early lead and dominating the majority of the second half Wrexham, those bonniest of FA Cup fighters, were unable to pull off another shock at the Racecourse Ground last night. This was mainly due to two excellent first-half goals by Michael Hughes, a member of the West Ham side knocked out by Wrexham in last season's competition.

Wimbledon had fair warning of Wrexham's attacking capabilities before Karl Connolly gave the Welsh club a seventh-minute lead. Neil Wainwright had shot into the side netting and then Gareth Owen struck a powerful right-foot drive too close for Neil Sullivan's comfort.

Indeed the whole Wimbledon side looked remarkably uneasy as Wrexham's starburst of attacks rained down on them, and Owen eventually instigated the early breakthrough. With Kenny Cunningham desperately trying to hold the midfield player back, Owen crossed, Neil Roberts stopped the ball dead and Connolly struck it beyond Sullivan.

Wimbledon were undoubtedly rattled and Vinnie Jones, never one to bottle up his emotions, was booked as Wrexham's pressure increased. Another home goal at this point might have ignited this replay and Wayne Phillips went close. Then suddenly it was all over.

Wimbledon equalised with a stunning volley from Hughes outside the area which struck the inside of Andy Marriott's left-hand post and pinged into the net.

It was Hughes who scored again shortly afterwards after Marcus Gayle's diagonal run had left the home defence floundering. Brian Carey's tackle eventually halted the striker but the ball ran loose and Hughes's left-foot shot again gave Marriott no chance.

Wimbledon's third goal was an uncanny echo of the goal that wasn't in the first tie. On that occasion Gayle headed in Neil Ardley's corner in injury time but the referee Steve Dunn had already blown for full time. This time Gayle again headed in Ardley's corner and, although the linesman flagged an infringement, the referee allowed the goal to stand after a brief consultation. This time the Wrexham fans were anything but pleased with his decision.

However, the Dons' hopes of a quiet second half were rudely shattered when Connolly scored his second only 90 seconds after the interval. Wrexham then had a huge penalty appeal turned down after Mark McGregor had fallen under a challenge from Alan Kimble. But the referee's generosity was clearly not limitless.

Wrexham (4-4-2): Marriott; McGregor, Carey, Ridler, Hardy; Phillips, Ward, Owen, Wainwright; Connolly, Roberts.
Wimbledon (4-4-2): Sullivan; Cunningham, Blackwell, Perry, Kimble; Ardley, Jones, Earle, M Hughes; Cort, Gayle.
Referee: S Dunn (Bristol).

Cheltenham 1, Reading 1

Cheltenham cheeky

David Foot

NO ONE would dare discount Cheltenham's intentions to reach the fourth round for the first time on last night's high-octane form. Reading, who earned a replay with a fine second-half goal by Trevor Morley, were matched in stamina and spirit by the team from the Vauxhall Conference.

These are heady days for Whaddon Road. Cheltenham, promoted last season, are second in the Conference and, mocking all the facile quips about their town's Regency decorum, are actually sniffing League for the first time in their 106-year history.

They even dared shrug off the non-stop defensive play over the first 20 minutes to take a cheeky and controversial lead — and for the first time to reveal the precision and spirit engendered by their local boy manager Steve Cotterill.

The goal came in the 21st minute when the referee ruled that Clive Walker had been fouled inside the box. Dale Watkins took the penalty and hammered his kick wide of Nicky Hammond's left hand.

From then on Cheltenham took the initiative. Watkins almost netted again but this time Andy Bernal checked him with a crucial tackle at the expense of a corner.

Walker, disguising his age on a boggy surface and in swirling rain, remained a threat as he combined effectively with Watkins in particular. There was also a fine effort from Keith Knight; once with Reading himself, his raid and curling shot went just outside the near post.

It was all so different from the early stages when Reading had all the possession and seemed to be strolling away against a startled non-league opposition. That was when the goalkeeper Steve Book excelled.

First, Book appeared to be losing possession as the ball came over from the left; while on the ground he managed to pull out an arm and flick the ball away to safety. In quick succession he saved from Steve Swales at the foot of the post and then spectacularly leaped to turn Phil Parkinson's 25 yard drive over the bar.

Small and tireless, Watkins, a £15,000 summer signing from Gloucester City, continued to pose the greatest threat to Reading as he shaped everything and interchanged usefully with the wily Walker. But Reading began to look more composed and contributed with equal fervour to the highly competitive tie in conditions which worsened in the second half.

Book was at last beaten in the 70th minute. Morley received from Stuart Lovell to net a nostalgic goal as he brushed off a tackle calmly before rolling the ball under the keeper's diving body.

Cheltenham (4-4-2): Book; Dutt, Fraenkler, Banks, Victory; Knight, Howells, Bloomer, Smith; Walker, Watkins.
Reading (4-4-2): Hammond; Booty, Bernal, Davies, Swales; Bowen, Parkinson, Hodges, Lambert; Morley, Lovell.
Referee: K Leach (Wolverhampton).

Hereford United 0, Tranmere Rovers 3

Jones double pours water on Hereford hopes

Frank Keating

A BRACE of Tranmere goals immediately after half-time stopped in its tracks a bonny enough challenge in the mud by the non-Leaguers Hereford and ensured the First Division side a fourth round tie with Sunderland on Saturday week. By the end Tranmere were composed enough winners but they knew they had been in a match all right.

The county has shipped a great deal of water and the Edgar Street pitch was as glisteningly wet as the famous day 26 years ago, when Newcastle were put out in that famous gloaming. Then Hereford trailed a goal down for the better part of the game.

Egged on by a full house, Hereford began with verve but as is often the way in these matters, having borne all the frenzy for the opening quarter of an hour, Tranmere scored after their first attack.

Mick Mellon and Gary Jones between them first conspired to miss a golden chance, but the ball was only half-hoofed clear out to the right and popped back again for David Kelly to direct a glancing header for the atoning Jones to slide the ball, in almost excruciating slow motion, under the flopping De Bont.

Hereford kept attacking, nevertheless, and, after good work by the clever Tony Agana, the winger Neil Grayson misdirected a header as Steve Simonsen late galloped from his goal.

McGrorry went close with a screamer from way out — that increasingly seemed to be the way Hereford would get back into things, the long Ron Radford blitzkrieg. Murray Fishlock's high steepling centre from the left touchline had Simonsen backpedalling in all manner of dither at his far post. The ball was scrambled away but it confirmed the tactics Hereford should employ.

It was not an heir of Radford, however, who saw the light and realised that Route One was the way as the rain continued to pelt down. It was Tranmere's tall rangy midfielder Jones 10 minutes into the second half, unmarked on the edge of the area who was wantonly given time to settle, turn and thump a shot low into De Bont's left-hand corner.

Hereford had indeed found their level, simply because Tranmere had at last found theirs. Within five minutes the substitute Clint Hill scrambled Tranmere's third over De Bont's line and, to all intents, that was that and the thing was done.

Hereford United (4-4-2): De Bont; Rodgerson, Fishlock, Pitman, Brough; Walker, Hargreaves, McGorry, Grayson; Agana, Mahon.
Tranmere Rovers (4-4-2): Simonsen; Challinor, Thompson, McGreal, Thorn (Hill, 44min); Irons, Jones, Parkinson, Kelly; O'Brien, Mellon.
Referee: R Harris (Oxford).

Shearer likely to return to face Bolton on Saturday

THE chances of Alan Shearer returning from injury against Bolton Wanderers at St James' Park appeared to increase yesterday when he played in a full-scale practice match between two of Newcastle United's junior teams at an undisclosed venue in the city, *writes Michael Walker*.

Shearer came through the session with no ill-effects and, given Newcastle's desperate need for goals as they try not to be sucked into a relegation battle, it is likely that he will face Bolton at some point on Saturday.

Meanwhile Bradford City have written to the Prime Minister and all 92 league clubs calling for David Mellor to be removed as head of the government's Football Task Force, after suggestions made on the former Conservative MP's BBC radio show that race may have played a part in the sacking of City's manager Chris Kamara.

The BBC yesterday released a statement intended to defuse the row, but the Bradford chairman Geoffrey Richmond, who will appear on the Radio 5 Live Six-O-Six programme on Saturday, said: "I do not believe David Mellor is a fit and proper person to be head of the Football Task Force." Mellor denies the allegation but has admitted raising the issue with a caller.

Hall set to follow Atkinson north

THE Sheffield Wednesday manager Ron Atkinson has returned to Coventry City to poach the promising full-back Marcus Hall.

The clubs have agreed a fee of around £2 million for the former England Under-21 captain who earlier this season signed a five-year contract with the Sky Blues.

Emerson finally joined Tenerife yesterday for £4.2 million, and left the Middlesbrough manager Bryan Robson puzzled: "I find it strange that he chose to leave now. I can't help but think he's been badly advised along the way."

Middlesbrough 2, Queens Park Rangers 0

Four-minute burst fires low-key Boro

Michael Walker

FA CUP progress is clearly low down on Bryan Robson's list of priorities but the Middlesbrough manager, no doubt with some frustration, saw his side ease past an alarmingly poor QPR last night.

Goalless and low-key before half-time, Boro pushed the game their way with only the faintest of nudges when two well-taken goals by Andy Campbell and Robbie Mustoe in the space of four minutes just before the hour were enough to set up another fixture in an already busy season.

An indication of how seriously Middlesbrough were apparently taking this game arrived with the team sheet. There was no Emerson, of course, but neither were there starting places for Craig Hignett, Mikkel Beck or Jaime Moreno, all left on the bench.

Three 18-year-olds were included instead and against a QPR side at full strength it seemed Boro were quite prepared to miss out on a possible fourth-round home tie with Arsenal, who replay at Port Vale tonight.

Nevertheless it was Boro who produced the first worthwhile effort when Steve Vickers glanced Paul Merson's curling centre against the crossbar in the 17th minute.

In an untidy opening it took Rangers nearly half an hour to create something of equivalent danger, and even then Trevor Sinclair's long-range shot only came about because Mark Schwarzer threw the ball straight to him. Schwarzer, though, redeemed himself by saving low to his right.

The theme from Ski Sunday was played at half-time, which was appropriate as the football had all been downhill. Middlesbrough, however, returned much perkier, and nine minutes after the restart another spell of scrappy play was ended by Merson's smooth touch. Swivelling on to a bouncing ball, he produced an inspired reverse lob that cut out the QPR defence. Campbell chased it and planted an emphatic right-foot volley past the helpless Harper from 12 yards.

Four minutes later the contest was over when Mustoe drilled a shot low into Harper's bottom right-hand corner from the edge of the area after intelligent and composed work by Maddison and Andy Townsend.

Middlesbrough (4-4-2): Schwarzer; Stockdale, Vickers, Festa, Harrison; Maddison, Mustoe, Townsend, Campbell; Merson, Ormerod.
Queens Park Rangers (4-4-2): Harper; Yates, Peacy, Morrow, Brevett (Bryan, 78min); Murray, Peacock, Ouashie, Sinclair; Spencer (Slade, 71), Sheron (Gallen, 71).
Referee: P Durkin (Dorset).



Mustoe ... clinching goal

Results

Football

FA CUP

Third round

Chelmsford (1) 1 — Reading (0) 1
Watkins 22 (pen) — Morley 71
6,000 (Winners away to Cardiff)

Hereford (0) 0 — Tranmere (1) 3
7,473 — Jones 14, 53; Hill 50
(Tranmere home to Sunderland)

West Brom (2) 3 — Stoke (0) 1
Sneekes 28, 32 — Gabbiadini 61
Kilbane 78 — 17,586
(West Brom away to Portsmouth or A Villa)

Third-round replays

Bury (0) 1 — Sheff Utd (0) 2
Gray 84 — Saunders 48
4,920 — Flontot 70
(Sheff Utd away to Ipswich)

Ipswich (1) 1 — Bristol Rvrs (0) 0
Johnson 43 — 11,362
(Ipswich home to Bury or Sheff Utd)

Middlesbrough (0) 2 — QPR (0) 0
Campbell 54, Mustoe 59 — 21,817
(Middlesbrough home to Arsenal or Port Vale)

Wrexham (1) 2 — Wimbledon (3) 3
Connolly 7, 48 — M Hughes 17, 26
8,530 — Gayle 35
(Wimbledon away to Bournemouth or Huddersfield)

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD

Second round

Northern Section

Macclesfield (0) 0 — Preston (0) 1
1,618 — Cartwright 46

POSTPONED: Burnley v Notts Co; Wigan v Rotherham.

Southern Section

Fulham (1) 3 — Wycombe (1) 1
Thomas 2, 87 — Harkin 38
Freeman 88 — 4,318

Luton (0) 2 — Brentford (0) 1
Thorpe 52 — Townley 90
Oldfield 61 — 3,106

Northampton (1) 6 — Torquay (0) 1
Freestone 28, 64 — Gittens 73
Frain 51 — 2,843
Heggs 67, 80

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

First Division

POSTPONED: Hamilton v Ayr.

Second Division

Clyde (0) 0 — Stranraer (1) 1
684 — English 19

FA TROPHY: First round: Postponed: Altrincham v Runcorn. First-round replays: Workop 2, Barrow 4; Telford 3, Gulsoley 2; Chorley 0, Ashton Utd 2; Slough 2, Welling 1, Hastings 0, Bath C 1; Chesham 0, Stevenage 3; Yeading 1, Yeovil 0. Postponed: Lge Tn v Grasley Rvrs; Leigh RMI v Grantham.

SPALDING CHALLENGE CUP: Quarter-final replays: Postponed: Morecambe v Gateshead

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Unibite First Division Cup: Second round: Postponed: Trafford v Gretna.

RYMAN LEAGUE: First Division: Postponed: Abingdon Tn v Bognor Regis Tn.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Cup: Second round: Clevedon 4, Forest Green 1.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: Finals: C Palace 0, Charlton 1; Millwall 1, Norwich 3; Oxford Utd 2, Luton 1

GILBERT LEAGUE CUP: Quarter-finals, first legs: Barry Tn 1, Inter Cable-Tel 2.

COUNTY ANTRIM SHIELD: Semi-finals: Dundela 1, Crusaders 3.

FRENCH LEAGUE CUP: First rounds: Epinal 0, Toulouse 2.

Rugby Union

TETLEY'S BITTER CUP: Fourth round: Moseley 11, Sale 18; Worcester 14, Bristol 12.

WELSH CHALLENGE TROPHY: Pool A: Llanelli 50, Namibia 12. Pool B: Neath 20, Spain 13; Newport 38, Rugby Canada 26.

TENNENTS PREMIERSHIP: First Division: Boroughmuir 20, Harlots FP 9.

Tennis

SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT: Mens First round: P Rafter (Aus) bt T Woodbridge (Aus) 6-4, 6-3; A Portas (Sp) bt M Norman (Swe) 6-3, 6-3; K Kucera (Slo) bt S Schalken (Neth) 6-2, 6-2; W Kiefer (Ger) bt S Bruguera (Sp) 7-5, 6-1; A Costa (Sp) bt H Arazi (Mar) 6-3, 6-4; M Tebbutt (Aus) bt M Rosset (Switz) 4-6, 6-4, 7-5; T Martin (US) bt C Pioline (Fr) 6-4, 5-7, 6-3; J Stoltenberg (Aus) bt J Alonso (Sp) 6-3, 6-2; A Berasategui (Sp) bt F Santoro (Fr) 6-4, 6-7, 6-3; L Newitt (Aus) bt J Bjorkmann (Swe) 6-3, 6-7, 6-4; T Neumayer (GB) bt M Woodforde (Aus) 6-3, 6-2, 6-4.

Womens First round: V Williams (US) bt M Hingis (Switz) 3-6, 6-4, 7-5; S Williams (US) bt M Lucic (Cro) 3-6, 6-4, 7-5; A Sanchez Vicario (Sp) bt K Habsudova (Slovak) 7-5, 6-4; A Sugiyama (Japan) bt R Latimi (It) 6-1, 7-6; J Lee (Taipei) bt B Schultz-McCarthy (Neth) 6-0, 1-1 (ret).

Second round: M Maleeva (Bul) bt C Rubin (US) 6-3, 1-6, 6-4; B Paulus (Aut) bt I Spirlea (Rom) 6-2, 1-6, 6-3.

ATP HELLSOUTH OPEN (Auckland): First rounds: A Rios (NZ) bt D Vacek (Cz) 6-4, 7-6; M Mellanos (NZ) bt F Meligeni (Br) 6-4, 1-6, 7-6; B Black (Zim) bt A Gaudenzi (It) 6-1, 5-3; C Costa (Sp) bt L Roux (Fr) 1-6, 6-2, 6-3; F Mantilla (Sp) bt J v Herck (Bel) 7-6, 6-3; M Rios (Chile) bt N Lapentti (Ecu) 6-3, 6-3; J Tarango (US) bt S Macpherson (US) 3-6, 6-3, 6-2; S Stevens (NZ) bt T Suaraak (NZ) 6-1, 6-2; D Hrbaty (Svk) bt R Rosberg (US) 6-2, 6-4; R Fromberg (Aus) bt K Alami (Mar) 3-0 ret.

Basketball

NBAs Toronto 100, New Jersey 108; Minnesota 103, Golden State 87; Milwaukee 110, LA Clippers 86; Utah 108, Cleveland 96; Sacramento 98, Phoenix 90.

Bowls

WELSH INDOOR SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP (Llanelli): Semi-finals: M Anstey (Merthyr) bt R Weale (Radnorshire) 1-7, 7-3, 7-3; N Williams (Swansea) bt K Peregrine (Ammanford) 5-7, 7-2, 7-0. Finals: Anstey bt Williams 3-7, 7-4, 7-0, 7-6.

Cricket

U-19 WORLD CUP: Preliminary rounds: Group One: Sweater: South Africa 283-6 (Kent 102, Lumb 52, Odoyo 3-71) Kenya 203-8 (Mboya 57no, Odoyo 42; Rudolph 3-38). South Africa won by 80 runs. Lemaster: Scotland 103 all out (Miller 21, S Singh 3-15. Sehwag 3-4). India 104-3 (Kaif 40no; Malden 3-37). India won by seven wickets. Group Two: Rundjestenbaai: Namibia 167-8. England 162-7 (Scholtz 5-28). England won three wickets. Pretoria: New Zealand 272-6 (Kelly 88, Ingram 82; Khan 3-57) Bangladesh 178 (Rokon 46; West 3-33 Martin 3-26). New Zealand won by 99 runs. Group Three: Bellsbergs: Pakistan 348-7 (Khan 106, Razak 84; Nelson 4-68). Denmark 71-7. Pakistan won by 277 runs. Benoni: Ireland 159-9 (Carruthers 35, Hesford 33). Sri Lanka 162-9 (Fernando 49, Zoysa 31no). Sri Lanka won by two wickets. Group Four: Potchefstroom: Australia 299-8 (Hopes 105; Jan 3-30). West Indies 226-7 (Gayle 65). Australia won by 71 runs. Klerksdorps: Zimbabwe 290-8 (Vermeulen 119, Matlock-Brown 62; Dikana 3-41) Papua New Guinea 143 (Mulendera 5-25. Ntala 4-20). Zimbabwe won by 147 runs.

ONE-DAY MATCH (Bowral, Aus): South Africa 288 (H Gibbs 131). Bradman XI 133 (Adams 4-28). South Africa won by 155 runs.

Ice Hockey

NHL: Boston 1, New Jersey 1; Carolina 1, Pittsburgh 4; NY Islanders 1, Detroit 1; NY Rangers 3, Toronto 2; Tampa Bay 3, Montreal 6; Chicago 3, Vancouver 2; Colorado 3, Florida 1; Edmonton 2, St Louis 1; Los Angeles 3, Anaheim 2 (ot); San Jose 3, Dallas 3.

Motor Sport

PARIS-DAKAR RALLY: Stage 12 (Timbuktu to Nema; 551km): Cars 1, K Shinozuka (Japan) Mitsubishi 7hr 36min 35sec; 2, J-P Fontenay (Fr) Mitsubishi at 2min 45sec; 3, B Saby (Fr) Mitsubishi 6.17; 4, J-L Schlesser (Fr) Buggy 27.32; 5, J Kleinschmidt (Ger) Buggy 35.27; 6, H Masuoka (Japan) Mitsubishi 38.57; 7, C Souza (Por) Mitsubishi 51.38; 8, T de Lavergne (Fr) Nissan 56.36; 9, P Arlot (Fr) Nissan 1.03.04. Overall: 1, Fontenay 40hr 34min 15sec; 2, Saby at 12min 36sec; 3, Shinozuka 1.55.40; 4, Masuoka 2.40.22; 5, Schlesser 4.14.53; 6, Arlot 8.48.54; 7, De Lavergne 9.27.31; 8, Souza 14.32.55; 9, Kleinschmidt 28.04.07. Motorcycles: 1, R Salinel (Fr) KTM 7hr 12min 7sec; 2, S Peterhansel (Fr) Yamaha at 41sec; 3, F Meoni (It) KTM 8.51; 4, P Krause (US) KTM 12.48; 5, A Cox (SA) KTM 13.22; 6, O Gallardo (Sp) BMW 17.26; 7, G Jimenez (Neth) KTM 18.30; 8, J Arcarons (Sp) KTM 22.14; 9, C Sainz (Sp) Cagiva 22.40; 10, A Haydon (Aus) KTM 28.33. Overall: 1, Peterhansel 38hr 40min 47sec; 2, Salinel at 19min 35sec; 3, Meoni 33.20; 4, Solslo 1.11.22; 5, Haydon 1.29.27; 6, Cox 2.04.11; 7, J Deacon (GB) KTM 2.47.32; 8, Jimenez 2.55.25; 9, Arcarons 4.18.12; 10, Krause 5.43.18.

Alpine Skiing

WORLD CUP (Adelboden): Mens Giant slalom: 1, H Maier (Aut) 2min 20.08sec; 2, M Von Grunsigen (Switz) 2.21.32; 3, P Accola (Switz) 2.21.33; 4, H Knaus (Aut) 2.21.78; 5, U Kaelin (Switz) 2.22.25; 6, J Chenal (Fr) 2.22.47; 7, R Salzgeber (Aut) 2.22.57; 8, F Nyberg (Swe) 2.22.60. Giant slalom standings: 1, Maier 500pts; 2, Von Grunsigen 420; 3, C Mayer (Aut) 299; 4, Knaus 295; 5, S Eberharter (Aut) 255; 6, Kaelin 250; 7, S Locher (Switz) 199; 8, Salzgeber 194. Overall: 1, Maier 1,119pts; 2, Eberharter 648; 3, Schiffrer 592; 4, Von Grunsigen 536; 5, Aamodt 410; 6, Mayer 394; 7, Knaus 385; 8, Tomba 368. Nations Cup: 1, Austria 7,848pts; 2, Italy 3,688; 3, Germany 3,687.

Squash

OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS (Rye, NY): Finals: Mens P Johnson (Eng) bt S Castelyn (Bel) 17-14, 15-2, 15-8. Womens C Jackman (Eng) bt S Wright (Eng) 9-10, 9-6, 9-4, 9-4.

Swimming

WORLD CHIPS (Perth): Finals: Mens 400m individual medleys: 1, T Dolan (US) 4.14.95, 2, M Woods (Neth) 4min 15.53sec; 3, C Myden (Can) 4.16.46. 4x200m freestyle relays: 1, Australia (M Klim/ Thorpe/ S Hackett/D Kowalski) 7.12.48; 2, Netherlands (P van den Hoogenband/M van der Zijden/M Zuijdweg/M Wouda) 7.16.77; 3, Britain (P Palmer/G Meadows/A Clayton/J Salter) 7.17.33. Diving: 3m springboard: 1, D Sastin (Rus) 746.79pts; 2, Z Yilin (China) 694.82; 3, V Lisovskiy (Rus) 661.68. Womens 200m freestyle: 1, C Poll (Costa Rica) 1.58.90; 2, M Moravova (Slovak) 1.59.61. 100m breaststroke: 1, K Kowal (US) 1.08.42; 2, H Denman (Aus) 1.08.51; 3, L Van Oosten (Can) 1.08.66. Synchronised swimming: Solos 1, O Sedakova (Rus) 99.304pts; 2, V Dadieu (Fr) 98.154; 3, M Tashibana (Japan) 97.530.

Team talk

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The Guardian INTERACTIVE

Rugby Union

Jenkins will cost Bath record fee

Paul Rees

THE Wales outside-half Neil Jenkins is today meeting Bath officials to discuss a move from Pontypridd to the Recreation Ground. The English club have been told they will have to break the game's transfer record to land the 26-year-old.

Jenkins's match-winning exploits with the boot for the Lions in South Africa last summer attracted the attention of several English clubs but he chose to remain at Pontypridd, the club he had joined as a teenager, where he is in his second season as captain.

He hinted last night, however, that he was ready to move. "Pontypridd have given Bath permission to talk to me and it's a case of considering all the options," he said. "I've loved every minute of my 12 years at Pontypridd but my contract is up soon and if Bath or anyone else comes up with a really good offer it might be difficult to turn it down."

Bath, who have been unable to play Matt Perry at full-back in place of the veteran Jonathan Callard because they lack an alternative specialist place-kicker, asked Pontypridd last week for permission to speak to Jenkins.

"It is a free market and it would be wrong to deny a player the opportunity to speak to another club," said Pontypridd's manager Eddie Jones. "I think Bath will be surprised at how much Neil earns, both from the game and from his job with Just Rentals.

"They would have to dig deep to match that, let alone better it, and then there would be the question of a transfer fee. There is no way we want to let him go, because how do you replace a player of his calibre? Bath would have to break the British transfer record to make us even think of parting with him."

Jenkins has a contract with the Welsh Rugby Union worth £40,000 a year which he would forfeit if he moved to England. His earnings from Pontypridd and Just Rentals push his annual income close to the six-figure mark. Moreover, his contract with Pontypridd stretches into next season and the Welsh champions will demand at least £300,000 for their most capped player and record points scorer.

Pontypridd yesterday signed Orrell's Wales A outside-half Matthew MacCarthy on loan for the rest of the season but Jones denied that was because they anticipated losing Jenkins. "We are the only club in the Premier Division which does not have recognised cover at outside-half," he said. "With the international campaign coming up, we want to give Neil the opportunity to rest.

"I do not anticipate losing Neil but I had been expecting the call ever since Ieuan Evans [the Wales wing] joined Bath, because he is a close friend of Neil's."

Otley give flanker Filipo 30-day ban over punching incident

OTLEY have suspended their Western Samoan flanker Lafaele Filipo for a month after an alleged punching incident in which his opposite number Alistair Yule was injured in the National League One game against Morley on December 27.

A statement from Otley said that Filipo was suspended for 30 days from January 12 to February 10. Their action follows a citing of Filipo by their Yorkshire neighbours, who consulted video evidence from the match. The ban takes in four matches.

Shannon's Mick Galwey, a former Lions lock, and Graham Heaslip (Galwegians) have been called up for Ireland's national squad training session today to replace the injured Paddy Johns of Saracens and Gabriel Fulcher of London Irish.



Flying low . . . Worcester's scrum-half Steve Powell is brought to ground by the Bristol captain Robert Jones PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID RODGERS

Tetley's Bitter Cup, fourth round: Worcester 14, Bristol 12

Smith makes Bristol pay penalty

Ian Malin

BRISTOL suffered a breakdown at Worcester's Sixways ground alongside the M6 last night when their wheels came off against the home side's potent mix of old hands and young legs.

Bristol appeared to have earned — if that is the right word — a home fifth round tie against Newcastle thanks to three second-half penalties from their Irish fly half Paul Burke, the final kick unerringly struck from 35 yards only eight minutes from time.

But little Worcester were not to be outdone. Two minutes into injury time they were awarded a penalty which Tim Smith landed from 30 yards. The whistle blew. Cue Bedlam.

These clubs may meet again in the league next season. Bristol are one place off the bottom of Premiership One, Worcester one off the top of the Jewson League. Further spice was added to the fixture with Cliff Brittle's plans to cordon off the Premiership to keep out upwardly mobile clubs like Worcester. The semi-professionals in their superbly equipped stadium had something to say about that last night.

The background of the game was also not without its darker side. On the day Bath moved to punish one of their errant forwards, Worcester's flanker Chris Scott was suspended for this historic tie. Nottingham allege Scott broke the jaw of their utility back Nick Carroll in their league match last weekend. Carroll is expected to miss the rest of the season. Worcester hardly missed Scott last night. His stand-in was Nigel Richardson, a former Cambridge University captain. Few Jewson League teams have such strength in depth.

Richardson was part of an excellent Worcester back row and Steve Lloyd, the former World's A lock, was a tower of strength in the line-out. Les Cusworth, the former England fly-half who is director of rugby at Sixways rang the changes with four replacements to his tiring forward warriors in the second half. They all deserve a rest this morning.

The game began in sensational fashion. Deep in the Worcester 22 Paul Hull, the Bristol centre, threw out a loose pass and looked on in horror as it was intercepted by Worcester's wing Simon Morris.

The former Gloucester player pinned back his ears, ran 80 yards down the left touchline and avoided Lewsey's despairing tackle to score in the corner.

Smith missed the conversion and Paul Burke brought Bristol into the game with a straightforward penalty after 15 minutes. But two penalties by Smith and a combination of heroic defence by Worcester and muddy conditions that made handling difficult gave the home side the encouragement they needed with an 11–3 interval lead.

SCORERS: Worcester: Try: Morris. Penalties: Smith 3. Bristol: Penalties: Burke 4

Worcester: Smith; Holford, Hughes, Tomlinson, Morris; Le Bas, Powell; Linnett, Houston, Crane, Lloyd, Miles, Clark (capt), Richardson, Jenner. Bristol: Lewsey; Tiuzi, Hull, Maggs, Yapp; Burke, R Jones (capt); Worsley, Dunn, Fullman, Adams, Devergis, Brownrigg, Short, Rollis. Referee S Piercy (York).

Swimming

Bronze ends British wait for medal

BRITAIN won their first medal of the world championships in Perth yesterday when the men's 4 x 200 metres freestyle team took bronze in a dramatic final.

They were beaten into third place by Holland by less than half a second but broke the national record they set when winning gold in last summer's European championships in Spain. Australia were comfortable winners and the United States, the Olympic champions, finished fifth.

Britain seemed likely to take silver when, with 50m remaining, James Salter caught Tom Dolan of the United States, who had earlier successfully defended his 400m individual medley title. But the Edinburgh-based swimmer was overtaken by the Dutchman Marcel Wouda in the final few metres.

"In a way I'm disappointed I couldn't get the silver medal for the team, but the bronze is what we were expected to get," said Salter after dispelling the fear that Britain would fail to win a medal for the second successive world championships. "This could be the performance to fire us up for the rest of the championships. We didn't expect to get a British record, it was just a case of racing hard."

Improved performances by Salter and Paul Palmer, who disappointed in Monday's 200m individual freestyle final, helped Britain to a record time of 7min 17.33sec, 0.23sec faster than they had set in Spain.

Australia won in a championship best of 7:12.48 and Holland finished in 7:16.77. Britain's quartet was completed by Gavin Meadows and Andrew Clayton, although Mark Stevens will also get a medal for racing in the heats.

A major upset in the women's 100m breaststroke final saw Kristy Kowal of the United States take gold and the three favourites — Samantha Riley, Penny Heyns and Agnes Kovacs — finish outside the medals.

Costa Rica's Claudia Poll won the 200m freestyle to take the other gold on offer yesterday. Britain's Karen Pickering finished seventh in the B final of the same event.

Australia's sports minister Andrew Thomson confirmed yesterday that drugs found in the luggage of the Chinese swimmer Yuan Yuan last week were pure human growth hormone, suggesting mass usage.

"There's no suggestion it was diluted; it was pure," Thomson said after tests on two of the 13 vials of banned Somatropin which were found during a routine narcotics check at Sydney airport.

However, swimming's governing body Fina delayed announcing a punishment for Yuan and her coach Zhou Zhewen, who were sent home in disgrace on Monday. It said it would wait for official details of the dosage of the vials, which will indicate whether they contained enough for the entire Chinese team or only one swimmer.

Sport in brief

'Half-hearted' Ford unveils new image

FORD executives admitted they were tired of the company's perceived "half-hearted" approach to Formula One as the Stewart-Ford SF2 grand prix car was unveiled yesterday, *writes Alan Henry*. The drivers Rubens Barrichello and Jan Magnussen will have a new Zetec-R V10 engine supplied by Ford exclusively to Stewart in the second season of their five-year alliance.

Hull sign Bull Tomlinson

HULL have agreed to pay Bradford between £30,000 and £45,000 for Glen Tomlinson, an Australian scrum-half who figured in all 22 of the Bulls' Super League matches last summer, *writes Andy Wilson*. Hull moved in for Tomlinson after their plans to sign Craig Kimmorley, another Australian half-back, were hit by complications over his work permit.

Champions take early lead

PASHA GRISHUK and Evgeny Platov, the Russian Olympic and four-times world ice dance champions now based in the United States, led after the two compulsory dances at the European figure skating championships in Milan, *writes Molly Switlek*. Britain's Charlotte Clements and Gary Shortland were equal 19th out of 23 on their senior international debut.

England up to third

ENGLAND lie third in the 1998 Fide international chess rankings, boasting seven players in the top 100, *writes Leonard Barden*. Russia head the list with 21 and the United States have eight. Garry Kasparov is again the world's No. 1, ahead of Vladimir Kramnik and Vishy Anand; Michael Adams is ranked 15th, Nigel Short 22nd and Matthew Sadler 26th.

Nicol's double top

PETER NICOL, who will become Britain's first male world No. 1 when February's squash rankings are released, has been made the top seed for the British national championship which starts on January 29, *writes Richard Jago*.

Conner protest rejected

THE International Jury has rejected Dennis Conner's protest about the fourth leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race because he had not properly contacted his rival skipper Paul Cayard, *writes Bob Fisher*. Conner's complaint concerned the lack of a navigation light on Cayard's EF Language on the final night of the leg. Conner's boat Toshiba sent a message to EF Language by Satcom C but, despite an error message indicating "delivery not confirmed", no further action was taken by Conner.

Cameron at the helm

NEIL CAMERON, a 51-year-old Scot, will take over as chief executive of the International Badminton Federation when the Englishman David Shaw retires in July. *writes Richard Jago*. Cameron said he plans further expansion of a sport which already has more than 120 nations affiliated to the IBF and claims to be one of the 10 most popular in the world.

Clark dies of stroke

ROGER CLARK, the RAC Rally winner in 1972 and 1976, has died of a stroke at the age of 58 after a long period of ill-health. Clark, a pioneer of commercial sponsorship in the sport, also won the British championship four times before his retirement in 1980.

Obituary, page 10

Cricket

Man who never said die and left Yorkshire asking why

David Hopps at the funeral of one of the county's most resolute sons, David Bairstow

THIS has been a horrible few weeks in West Yorkshire. The deaths, in quick succession, of Billy Bremner and David Bairstow have deprived the region of two sportsmen who epitomised the resolute characteristics in which it takes unlimited pride.

Bluey's death has shaken Yorkshire to its core, because Bluey Bairstow, a cricketer of unquenchable combative spirit, chose to hang himself. Yorkshire folk, it is said, have never been acquainted with the word "why?". Well, we all have in the past few days, desperately so. Many have wondered little else.

St Andrew's Church in Aldborough, North Yorkshire, holds about 350 but nearly 600 squeezed in yesterday to hear the curate, Philip Smith, reflect upon Bairstow's depressive illness, "for illness it was", which led to his taking his own life at 46.

Mr Smith reflected astutely upon a man who was so brutally honest that he did not always know whom he could trust. Indeed, many present yesterday had periodically fallen out with Bluey, then like as not fallen back in again, a process generally involving several pints and a spot of plain speaking.

I keenly remember inadvertently bumping into him one morning in Scarborough, 12 years ago now. He was on 999 dismissals for Yorkshire and had just been told he had been dropped. That I had written in complimentary fashion about his replacement, Richard Blakey, was cause enough for a vigorous nonstop rollicking on the way to the ground.

Such was Bluey's popularity that the nearer we came to North Marine Road, the more people stopped to wish him a cheery good morning. For the last hundred yards he entirely lost his thread and had to keep asking where he had got up to. "I don't

> So brutally honest that he did not always know whom he could trust

understand you," he concluded, red-faced, as we walked down the concourse. "I've just given you the biggest bloody bollocking you've ever had and all you do is keep laughing."

His disagreement with Yorkshire cut more deeply. It arose from a foolish argument over seating arrangements at Headingley during a reunion of former players. Bairstow was officially reprimanded for his language and never entirely forgave his county.

Yorkshire, in the circumstances, have acted honourably in a sensitive situation. They have launched a fund for Bairstow's widow Janet and two children and issued an open invitation to a wake across the road at The Ship Inn, where their former wicketkeeper loved to hold court.

Cricket's lifelong fraternity is real enough but somehow Bairstow was not saved by it. "If there is any tribute that can be paid to David Bairstow, it is to ensure that retired sportsmen are looked after more carefully," said Mr Smith.

But no one should doubt the depth of affection that Yorkshire held for Bairstow, the cricketer who never quit. His coffin was borne by six former Yorkshire players, among them Arnie Sidebottom. Nothing served Yorkshire so nobly in the bleak mid-Eighties as the combination of Bairstow and Sidebottom. A face recurringly creased and reddened by toil was yesterday flushed with grief; hair so often wet with sweat was drenched by rain.

As some still say around here, it could not have been more of a dowly day. It still rained as they left the church: England's chairman of selectors David Graveney; Closey, grabbing a quick fag; Dickie Bird, loudly flapping about the weather; almost enough supporters for a cold Championship day in April.

Some might have been surprised to file out to the strains of Tina Turner's Simply The Best. But you could almost feel Bairstow puffing out that indomitable chest again like an angry robin. A never-say-die sportsman who left Yorkshire wondering "why?"

Tennis

Hewitt sees off world No.4

AUSTRALIA's brilliant 16-year-old Lleyton Hewitt continued to make the most of his school holidays by beating the world No. 4 Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden yesterday at the Sydney International. Britain's Tim Henman also moved into the second round, with a gritty win over Mark Woodforde.

The defeat of the second seed Bjorkman and of the No. 8 Cedric Pioline of France, who was knocked out by the American Todd Martin 6–4, 5–7, 6–3, means that only three seeds remain in the men's singles.

Hewitt outlasted Bjorkman 6–3, 6–7, 6–4 two days after winning the Australian Men's Hardcourt Championship — beating Andre Agassi and Jason Stoltenberg on the way — which lifted his world ranking from No. 560 to No. 200. But Bjorkman's is his biggest scalp to date.

The Swede, however, gave Hewitt no praise. "It's tough to rate a guy when I'm not playing as well as I normally do," he said. "I have to go down to the practice courts. My technique is not there. For the moment, anyone in the top 200 can beat me."

Henman, the defending champion, must face the rapidly improving Spaniard Albert Portas today after battling his way past Woodforde 6–2, 2–6, 6–4. The sixth seed won the first set at a canter but had to rally from 3–1 down in the decider to beat the experienced Australian — who has won five successive Wimbledon doubles titles with Todd Woodbridge — in testing, windy conditions.

However, the 23-year-old British No. 2, who lost to Petr Korda in the quarter-finals of the Qatar Open in Doha last week and slipped to 19th in the rankings, needs to retain the title to stop him falling further.

Portas, a clay-court specialist and world No. 35, was an impressive 6–3, 6–3 winner over Sweden's world No. 22 Magnus Norman.

Hingis falls to earth as Venus and Serena reach for the stars

VENUS WILLIAMS and her sister Serena, who have vowed they will one day rule the women's game, yesterday took further steps towards that goal when they both reached the quarter-finals of the Sydney International.

Venus, 17, defeated the No. 1 seed Martina Hingis 3–6, 6–4, 7–5 after nearly 2½ hours. There was a 10-minute break before the third set because of the heat and both players were treated for cramp.

"I've never had that before," said Williams. "The umpire asked me if it's cramps. I said, 'I don't know, it's pain.' I didn't want to quit, because I'd come so far in the heat; I had to go on."

Her mother, watching at the side of the court, said: "When she's hurt, that's when she's dangerous. That's when she goes for her shots."

The American, seeking to avenge her straight-sets defeat in the US Open final, played a gutsy baseline game against the unfit and irritable Swiss teenager and now meets Bulgaria's Magdalena Maleeva, who put out the American Chanda Rubin 6–3, 1–6, 6–4.

Williams is confident that this year she will jump the 20 places to replace Hingis as world No. 1: not over-confident, though. "Anyone can talk but you have to walk," she said.

The defending champion blamed herself. "I didn't play very smart," said Hingis, claiming she was not ready for a tough match; she arrived from Switzerland only a few days ago for this warm-up tournament for the Australian Open. "But it's not disappointing because now I have something to learn from especially for Melbourne."

Later the 16-year-old Serena Williams defeated the promising 15-year-old Croatian Mirjana Lucic by the same score. "We want to be at the top together," said the world No. 96. "If I play my game and she plays hers, I think we can be there."

Warne takes over as limited-overs captain

SHANE WARNE captains Australia for the first time in today's World Series match against New Zealand in Sydney, taking over as limited-overs captain from the injured Steve Waugh.

"We'll be attacking for sure," the leg-spinner said. "Probably you will see some weird things but I will take it like any other game and go out and do my best."

Waugh, who has a hip injury, was joined on the sidelines by his twin brother Mark, who has influenza. The Queensland batsman Jimmy Maher, the spinner Brad Young and the Worcestershire all-rounder Tom Moody were added to the squad.

South Africa, with 10 points from six games, have qualified for the final. Australia have four points from five games, two clear of New Zealand.

Courtney Walsh, deposed as West Indies captain by Brian Lara last week, will announce today or tomorrow whether he is prepared to continue his international career under the new captain. "It's a hard decision," he said.

The Jamaican fast bowler needs only 24 more wickets to break Malcolm Marshall's West Indies wicket-taking record of 376 and is only four short of a century of Tests.

Fixtures

(7.30 unless stated)

Football

FA CUP: Third round: Darlington v Wolverhampton (7.45). Third-round replays: Aston Villa v Portsmouth (7.45); Port Vale v Arsenal (7.45); Sheff Wed v Watford (7.45). **SCOTTISH LEAGUE:** Second Division: Livingston v Inverness Cal. **FA TROPHY:** First-round replays: Sittingbourne v St Albans. **RYMAN LEAGUE:** First Division: Molesey v Staines Tn. **DR MARTENS CUP:** Second-round replays: Newport AFC v Gloucester. **ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE CUP:** Second round: Evenwood Tn v Chester Le Street. **SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE:** Premier Division: Brislington v Caine Tn. Lea Phillips Cup: Crediton Utd v Glastonbury. Wellington v Dawlish Tn. **PONTINS LEAGUE:** Premier Division: Birmingham v Man Utd (7.15); Preston v Notts Forest (7.0). First Division: Huddersfield v Wolverhampton (7.0). Second Division: Burnley v Rochdale (7.15); Lincoln v Blackpool (7.0). Third Division: Hull v Chester (7.0). League Cup: Group One: Wrexham v Oldham (7.0). Group Two: Scunthorpe v Leeds (7.0). Group Three: Notts County v Derby (7.0). Group Four: Wigan v Stockport (7.0). Group Six: Scarborough v Rotherham (7.0). **AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION:** First Division: Swindon v Portsmouth (7.15); Tottenham v Brighton. **GILBERT LEAGUE CUP:** Quarter-finals, first legs: Caernarfon Tn v Cemaes (7.45); Ynys Mon Cwmbran v Ebbw Vale. **HIGHLAND LEAGUE:** Fraserburgh v Elgin C (8.0); Keith v Rothes (8.0). **BRORA LEAGUE:** First Division: Lairg v Dunga Saints. **COUNTY ANTRIM SHIELD:** Semi-finals: Linfield v Distillery. **FAI CUP:** First-round replays: Shamrock Rvrs v Drogheda Utd; Longford Tn v Wayside Celtic; Mervue Utd v Sligo Rvrs.

Rugby Union

TETLEY'S BITTER CUP: Fourth round: Blackheath v Saracens (7.45). **WELSH CHALLENGE TROPHY:** Pool A: Ebbw Vale v Cordoba (7.15); Pontypridd v Tucuman (7.0). Pool B: Cardiff v Rosario (7.15); Swansea v N Transvaal (7.0). **TENNENTS PREMIERSHIP:** First Division: Currie v Edinburgh Acads (7.0). Second Division: Musselburgh v Dundee HSFP (7.0).

Basketball

UNI-BALL TROPHY: Quarter-finals, first legs: Greater London v Thames Valley (7.0); London T v Manchester (8.0).

Ice Hockey

SUPERLEAGUE: Newcastle v Ayr (7.0).

Wakeham resigns from Racing Board, page 13

Liverpool prepare to sell Friedel, page 14

British swimmers race to bronze, page 15

Hingis falls to inspired Venus, page 15

SportsGuardian

Ear-biting mystery unresolved

'We've got to find the truth but we're not going to be railroaded into a decision we're not happy with'

– Tony Swift, Bath's chief executive

'I didn't do it and I didn't see what happened. All I know was there was a lot of blood. I don't believe that any Bath player was involved. None of us would do anything like that'

– Federico Mendez, Yates's front-row colleague

'I do not see how Kevin could have done anything wrong. I was watching the match and didn't see anything untoward. They all wear gumshields so how on earth could anyone have made an injury like that with a gumshield in?

– Anne Yates, the prop's mother



State of denial . . . the England squad prop Kevin Yates, who insists he is not to blame for Simon Fenn's injury, now faces a Bath disciplinary hearing

Yates maintains his innocence

Robert Kitson reports on the suspension of the Bath prop despite his refusal to take responsibility for last weekend's bloody deed

KEVIN YATES's future in rugby union became a macabre game of Cluedo yesterday. There is little dispute about the implements used, or the location, but the England squad prop insists that, despite his suspension by Bath on full pay, he is not the person who bit off a chunk of the London Scottish flanker Simon Fenn's left ear on Saturday.

The 25-year-old had heard of his selection for his England debut in Argentina last summer while on crutches after putting his foot in a pothole while crossing a road in Cordoba. If he imagined that was painful, it will be nothing to what lies ahead if he fails to convince Bath's disciplinary committee of his innocence at a hearing scheduled for early next week.

Last night's statement from Bath, criticising London Scottish for citing all three members of their front row, was notable for what it left out as much as for what it contained. Their chief executive Tony Swift insisted he was "very concerned at the way the club and rugby is being portrayed" but knew that the world fully expected Bath to clear the air without outside assistance.

Yates, according to Swift, has been quizzed on three occasions and each time vehemently protested his innocence. He was upset but apparently took the news of his suspension "very professionally"; his mother Anne, for one, is adamant that he should not be singled out.

"All this is in the hands of the solicitors but as far as I am concerned I do not see how Kevin could have done anything wrong," she said. "I was watching the match and didn't see anything untoward. They all wear gumshields so how on earth could anyone have made an injury like that with a gumshield in?"

Fenn's injury, as revealed by London Scottish on Monday, is undeniable but Bath are still saying they have no definitive medical evidence that he was bitten, nor video proof that one of their men was involved. "We've got to find the truth but we're not going to be railroaded into a decision we're not happy with," said Swift.

A full investigation involving Swift, the head coach Andy Robinson and a company director, Thomas Sheppard, has also concluded there is no evidence that implicates the props Federico Mendez or Victor Ubogu. Mendez in particular may be tempted to take the matter further.

"I didn't do it and I didn't see what happened," he said. "I was a good few inches away. All I know was there was a lot of blood. I don't believe that any Bath player was involved. None of us would do anything like that."

Yates was born in Medicine Hat in Canada and was introduced to the game in Hong Kong, where his father was stationed in the British army with the Royal Corps of Transport. He went to school in Wiltshire and played for Chippenham before moving to Bath, for whom he has made more than 60 first-team appearances.

He played in the 1995 Pilkington Cup final after only 14 senior games and toured with England A to Australia and Fiji the same year, and his speed around the field has since ensured an increasingly prominent role in the full England plans of the coach Clive Woodward.

He packed down in two of the midweek games against the All Blacks on their pre-Christmas tour and was due at Bisham Abbey this morning for the first England squad get-together of the new year prior to the Five Nations Championship. Generally regarded as an affable character, Yates has opted not to attend, saying that "potential media interest might prove a disruption to the remainder of the squad". Woodward, who is not exactly flush with props, has promised "full support ... pending the outcome of the inquiry".

The worst-case scenario for Yates is that he is thrown out of the club and banned by the Rugby Football Union for at least two years. His supporters, though, point out that a man is innocent until proven guilty, and the mystery of Fenn's ear has yet to be satisfactorily explained by either side.

"We've looked at a number of videos a significant number of times and, believe me, you can't see anything," said Swift. Robinson, meanwhile, insists the club will shoulder their way through the crisis and give everything against Newcastle in the league this weekend, not to mention the meeting with Brive in the Heineken European Cup final in Bordeaux on January 31.

Why dear old Bath made a pig's ear of it



Paul Hayward

THE front row of a rugby scrum is no place to look for well-adjusted people. The Dysfunctionals, as they ought to be called, follow an inherently violent calling. The gap between pawing and gnawing may not be as wide as rugby folk like to think.

Rugby union gave the English middle classes a means to wage war on one another without anyone having to draw a pistol. The most intriguing sub-theme of the current ear-biting furore is what it says about the distinction between acceptable and non-acceptable violence. All week big men have been saying that Kevin Yates's alleged assault on Simon Fenn "can't be condoned", which really means can't be forgotten over a pint. In other words, "a spot of argy-bargy" it was not.

Almost as interesting as the attack itself has been the reaction of a sport which has always accepted some degree of hand-to-hand combat as part of the thrill. Fighting, and the inexplicable surge of excitement it often engenders, is rugby's dirty secret.

In the clubhouses there is a general acceptance that as long as the fight is fair and no bones are broken, a quick punch-up should not be allowed to jeopardise the camaraderie at the post-match get-together.

Particularly amusing, as the extent of Fenn's injuries became plain, was Jeff Probyn on Sky. "I'm surprised a flanker's been bitten," he said gravely. As a former Dysfunctional himself, Probyn knows that the front-row forwards prefer to engage their own kind; the last thing the master guild of props and hookers wants is lanky flankers sticking their heads in the cauldron. The three Unacceptables, said Probyn, were gouging, stamping and biting, and he couldn't resist a cheeky grin when asked if any of those wrongs had happened to him.

There is now too much of a pattern to rugby-related violence for us to avoid a worrying conclusion. This season we've had the Brive-Pontypridd rumpus, the ejection by West Hartlepool of yet another prop, Virgil Hartland, after he was twice accused of biting opponents, and Martin Johnson's haymaker on the All Blacks' Justin Marshall at Old Trafford when Marshall was looking the other way. For nearly breaking the New Zealand scrum-half's jaw, the authorities hit Johnson with a Draconian one-match ban.

Even the briefest glimpse at the pre-match rituals confirms that players are more pumped up than ever — and not only with muscles and money. They increasingly resemble American footballers who head-butt team-mates and scream blue murder before a ball has even been kicked. Somewhere in the new professional contracts must be a clause specifying that games must be treated as a weekly apocalypse. Simpler were the days when rugby players overdosed on real ale rather than testosterone and adrenalin.

Rugby, in short, is taking itself too seriously, telling itself that the stakes are far higher than they really are. Players are being encouraged to behave like puritans off the pitch (orange juice and soda only, lads) and Vikings on it. Harder, faster and more Darwinian, rugby union may be galloping to the edge of frenzy, and it is little wonder that the front-row forwards are getting there first.

Johan Le Roux, who dined on the All Black captain Sean Fitzpatrick's ear four years ago, was a low-number, low-caste shover and stormer. So are Yates and Hartland. So is Richard Cockerill, the England hooker who tried to wreck the haka at Old Trafford. So too, goddamnit, was the old "Pit Bull" himself, Brian Moore, who snarled for St George at all manner of adversaries and looked like hell on Monday mornings.

THE consensus seems to be that Bath made a pig's ear — sorry, complete mess — of the whole affair in not finding a suspect sooner. Yates is now accused not only of a "barbaric" assault but concealing his own guilt and thereby landing his club and certainly the whole front row in the dock. Whoever did it — Yates or another — is running scared but will have to be found.

It will be interesting to see, when guilt is finally apportioned, whether a rugger player from dear old Bath will be condemned in the same acid language as Mike Tyson, who after his assault on Evander Holyfield was denounced as a "savage", a "monster" and even a "cannibal". Doubt it, somehow.

Fenwick sacked in wake of Venables

Pat Symes

TERRY FENWICK was yesterday sacked as Portsmouth's manager, the day after his mentor Terry Venables stood down as chairman. Fenwick was told he had lost his job in a phone call from Switzerland from Martin Gregory as he prepared his team for tonight's FA Cup replay at Aston Villa.

It was Gregory's first act after effectively regaining control of the Fratton Park club from Venables.

Fenwick took Portsmouth to within three points of the First Division play-offs and FA Cup quarter-finals last season but the team are now rooted to the bottom.

Portsmouth appointed Fenwick on Venables's recommendation almost exactly three years ago, when Jim Smith left as manager. Venables was yesterday still considering the terms of his own departure from the club when Fenwick was fired.

Fenwick, 38, capped by England 20 times and a former Tottenham and Queens Park Rangers player under Venables, was earning £100,000 a year but his contract was due to expire this summer. He has been paid in full.

He said: "That's football. It's just the way it goes. I had no idea it was coming so soon but with all the uncertainty at the club it was not unexpected.

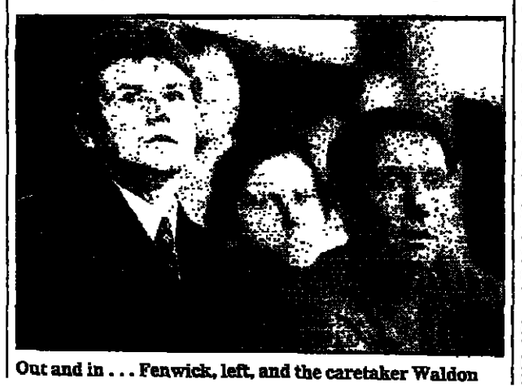
"I'm disappointed because I think we have some good players here who have underperformed. We have not played to our full potential and losing players to so many international calls has not helped me pick a settled side.

"People saw how good we could be when we almost knocked Aston Villa out of the FA Cup last week."

The assistant manager Keith Waldon, another Venables acolyte from his days at Tottenham, last night took the squad to the Midlands and will be in charge for tonight's third-round replay.

Venables and Portsmouth were last night close to finalising the agreement for the former England coach to leave the club with a pay-off of about £250,000. It is expected to be signed today.

His solicitor Nick Trainer said: "Terry wanted to stay but in the end his position has been made impossible. If he could raise the finances to help the club he would be keen to stay."



Out and in . . . Fenwick, left, and the caretaker Waldon

A former Portsmouth player, Chris Kamara, sacked by Bradford City last week, is the immediate favourite to replace Fenwick long term but any new manager would have to live with the uncertainty at Fratton Park and the current Football League embargo on buying players.

The American sports-stadium developer Vince Wolanin, who is considering buying the club in conjunction with the rock singer Brian Howe, said yesterday he was planning to spend "in the region of £90 million" to revive Pompey.

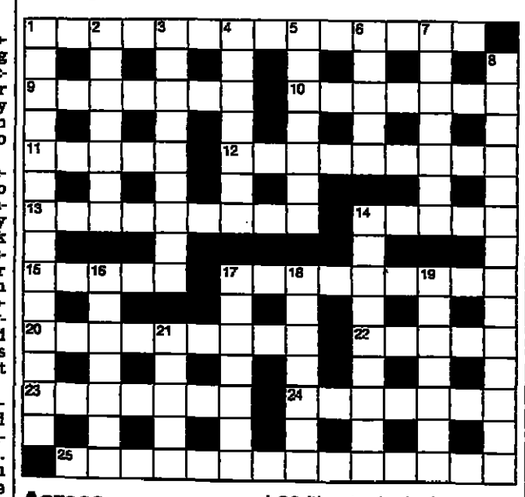
Wolanin and Howe, a lifelong Portsmouth fan, aim to build a multi-purpose stadium on the disused railway yard adjacent to Fratton Park and invest millions in transforming the squad. The pair will meet Gregory in Paris on Saturday to discuss their proposals and their planned buy-out of the club which would see them take over Gregory's stake in Portsmouth for about £6 million.

Wolanin said: "I was introduced to Martin by Brian and I am always looking for investment opportunities. Brian is a real do-or-die fan and if this comes off then he would be involved heavily.

"If we can help the team play better, then financially we will benefit and our company will benefit. That's been my experience in the past."

Guardian Crossword No 21,171

Set by Araucaria



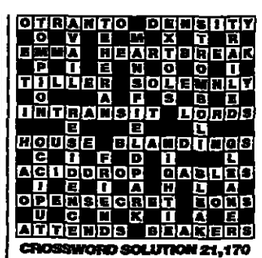
Across

1 Fool from the Lords — since when? (3,6)
9 Sink in the way of food (7)
10 Ape — the setter's one — at the pictures (7)
11 Switched on again when worker on roof returns (5)
12,13 Royal exchange, one up on Caligula's appointment? (2,7,3,1,5)
14 Fisher's lady put to the phone? (5)
15 Whip's about turn causes childish complaint (5)
17 Buffet and division, rendering of the one church (4,5)
20 It's paid at temporary home number one by return (9)
22 Frame healthy, not in bed (3,2)
23 It's natural nobody asked such a question (7)
24 Work in the theatre (both ends of it) (7)
25 Scared of frightful fiend without a currency to study (2,4,3,5)

Down

1 Heating capacity from 0-6 — L.C.C. a failure? (9,5)
2 Home on Sunday with housekeeper, not catholic (7)
3 Illuminator needing ballast? (9)
4 Kitchen vessel? (7)
5 Hint for senior citizen? (7)
6 North wind's name for Scots town (5)
7,14 Boxer's always around and on consecrated ground (7,9)
8 Pastor such as Niemoller or Barker (5,8)
14 See 7
16 Wrong by nine inches where travelling stops (7)
17 From this small fragment infer the Swedish Nightingale (7)
18 Managed to continue with capital (7)
19 Shell makes one crazy (3,4)
21 Early English writer, very pale if head to foot (5)

Solution tomorrow



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NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.6% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997
ABFPRT

Aaaaghhh! screams a woman. "That was Gérard Depardieu. He's just goosed her." *Goosed* her? "Yes, he pinched her bottom. He's always doing that." You wouldn't catch Leonard DiCaprio doing that. He wouldn't know how.

Simon Hattenstone on set with DiCaprio and Depardieu

G2 Arts page 8



هكذا من الأصل